

THE NATIONAL

PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT

Wool Grower

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VOLUME XXX

MARCH, 1940

NUMBER 3

SHEEP AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON

•

A FAIR POLICY ON BIG GAME

Dr. H. L. Shantz

•

EFFECT OF RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS ON THE WOOL GROWING INDUSTRY



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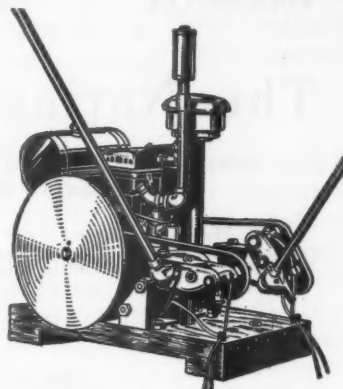
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F. R. Marshall, Editor

Irene Young, Assistant Editor

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Sheep Affairs at Washington

Washington, D. C.

March 8, 1940

I HAVE been here in Washington since February 17. The status of some of our various irons in the fire is reported below. Mr. J. B. Wilson was here earlier and informs me that the House Committee on Rules is expected to provide for a vote on the fabric labeling bill in the near future.

Forest Service

It seems to be about as sure as can be that there will be nothing done in the way of transferring the Forest Service, though some rumors are still kicking around that the President may do something next week. Under the Reorganization Act no reorganization plans can come into effect unless reported to Congress by January 21, 1941.

The American National Live Stock Association's committee has been here for about ten days. They have had a conference with Secretary Wallace in regard to legislation to insure continuation of advisory grazing boards on the forests. This follows a long series of conferences with the Forest Service officials. It is not certain yet, but rather probable, that this proposed bill will be introduced at this session. I am trying to have inserted in it a provision for use of funds for predatory animal work, in compliance with one of our Casper resolutions.

Trade Agreements

I put in our testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on February 29. The hearing closed on March 6 and we have just had word that the Committee has voted to report the resolution to extend the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act without amendment. Debate in the Senate is expected to start on the 11th or 13th. At that time Senators Pittman, O'Mahoney, Taft and others will introduce amendments calling for Senate ratification or Congressional approval of all agreements.

Senator O'Mahoney offered a ratification amendment before the Committee, but has changed his former resolution. For good legal reasons he has abandoned the idea of requiring the treatment of trade agreements as treaties, subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. His proposed amendment would call for approval of a trade agreement by both Houses of Congress, which means a majority vote. Undoubtedly there will be a long and very interesting debate on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Taft will introduce an amendment to provide that trade agreements, as prepared by the State Department, must be published and referred for hearings before the Tariff Commission; also that the Commission must find any proposed rates to be equal to the difference in cost of production at home and in the exporting countries. In the event that the Senate does provide for ratification by one or both

Houses of Congress there will be a long tussle in conference, since the House defeated that amendment. Of course, it would not be objectionable if the whole matter should finally die in conference.

Wool Promotion

The wool trade has sent out their new contract providing for collection of 5 cents per bag (3 cents in Texas), on all wool, whether sold or consigned, to be paid to the National Wool Growers Association for the Wool Promotion Fund. The exact phrasing of this contract clause is printed on page 25. It remains for the growers to acquiesce in this collection. I am communicating with all mills who buy direct from the country and with operators who are not members of the National Wool Trade Association, urging them to make this collection. I hope each association will keep track of the buyers in their states to see that they make this collection. It is our present idea to delay making plans for use of this fund until next fall when it can be known what total amount will be received for 1940.

Farm Credit Administration

A bill was introduced in the Senate March 5 to restore the independent status of the F.C.A. and to put its administration under a non-partisan appointed board of five with the Secretary of Agriculture an ex officio member. This bill was introduced by five strong Democrats—Gillette, Hatch, Miller, Mead and Truman. At the same time four other Democratic Senators, headed by Wheeler of Montana, introduced a bill relating only to land banks and greatly restricting the possibilities of foreclosure on farm loans. It is not at all probable that any of these bills will be seriously considered at this session or that they will come to a hearing.

Wages and Hours

The Barden bill is on the House Calendar with a rule and the packers expect it to be voted on by the middle of this month. I had a long talk on Saturday with the Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee and I can see that it is going to be very difficult to get Senate action at this session.

We are most interested in the amendment of the Wagner Act to considerably exempt sheep-shearing labor from the terms of that law. Action on this is also uncertain, though it is possible that it will be amended at this session.

Transportation Bills

It is expected that the Conference Committee on the transportation bills will report within two or three weeks. The waterways people are making a strong fight against any action by this Congress. It is quite possible, however, that there will be a law. We are in pretty close contact with

the Conference Committee and are almost assured that the through-routes provision will be in good shape when the bill is completed.

Wool Loans

Consideration of our application for 1940 C.C.C. wool

Request for 1940 Wool Loans

FORMAL application for loans on 1940 wools through the Commodity Credit Corporation was made upon Secretary Wallace on February 21 by the Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association and C. J. Fawcett, manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation. Consideration of the request, as stated in the Secretary's report from Washington (this page), has been delayed by the illness of President Robbins of the Commodity Credit Corporation; efforts on behalf of the loan are not being lessened in the meantime.

The establishment of the 1940 loan under substantially the same plan as that used in the two previous years was asked for, but upon a somewhat higher basis, as market conditions and import parity seem to warrant.

Statistics were given in the memorandum accompanying the application to show that there is nothing in the supply and demand situation to indicate a recession in wool values, but that the importation of fifty to sixty million pounds of cheaply bought foreign wool on which the wool top futures exchange is basing its values for future delivery is unduly depressing the domestic market. A loan through the C. C. C. would ease the marketing situation over the shearing season and permit growers to sell the clip in an orderly manner.

In outlining the need for such a loan, the memorandum further stated, in part:

Need for a Loan

We are not asking for a price-pegging loan, but an operating loan to tide the market over the shearing period when the bulk of the domestic clip, or 360,000,000 pounds, will be seeking a market in three months' time. Because of the limited amount of foreign wool now in transit and in the hands of manufacturers and dealers, which was purchased at less price than the

value of comparable domestic wools and considerably below the upset price placed by the British Government upon similar Australian wools, dealers and manufacturers may be able to stay out of the primary market for a time this spring. Unless some floor is established under the market, such as provided by the C.C.C. loan in 1938 and 1939, we greatly fear that competition on the part of dealers and manufacturers for purchase of the 1940 wool clip will be insufficient to maintain present market values, which are about 15 per cent below foreign importing parity. The C.C.C. loan in the season of 1938 and 1939 provided just such a floor under the market and performed just the service that we now desire in connection with the marketing of the 1940 clip.

War Disturbing Element

Misunderstanding and confusion exist in the minds of growers as to the possible effect the European war will have upon the wool market. The threat of releases of vast amounts of Australian wool by the British Government for the purpose of establishing dollar credits with which to buy war material and the possibility of greatly increased importations of manufactured wools from the same source and for the same purpose are some of the factors that have been advanced by speculative interests at recent wool grower conventions in the West, all of which tend to distract the attention of the average wool grower from the strong statistical position now held by domestic wool. Consumption has definitely overtaken production, so far as domestic wool is concerned, and there should be little danger of price recession if adequate finances can be available for lifting and carrying the 1940 clip until required by normal manufacturing demands. Such finances are not only greatly desired by the growers, but by the manufacturers as well, who unanimously agree that the loans made available in the season of 1938-1939 provided stabilization to the whole wool-growing and textile industry, that would not otherwise have existed. We believe continuation of the C.C.C. loan in the season of 1940 upon a somewhat higher basis, as market conditions and parity would seem to warrant, to be highly essential to the whole marketing structure.

Rate of Loan in 1940

We understand that under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the rate of loan upon non-basic commodities, such as wool which is not under any controlled plan or marketing agreement, may be determined

loans is being delayed by the illness of Chairman Robbins. We expect to see him this week and are very hopeful of favorable action. As you of course know, it will be extremely difficult to get a higher rate of loan than in the two previous years, although we are putting in a strong case on this point.

F. R. M.

by the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the approval of the Corporation and the President. It is also our understanding that in previous years the rate of loan has been computed upon the basis of parity values.

It must always be remembered the 1909-1914 base period was a peculiarly unfortunate one for wool growers. An unsuccessful effort was made in 1935 to have Congress establish a more just base period for wool. In 1912 and 1913 the tariff was under consideration in Congress and had been extensively discussed during the Presidential campaign. Finally the import duty was completely removed. Wool and sheep prices went to low levels, with the result that in the 1909-1914 period prices were lower than in any subsequent period.

The actual farm price of wool (which covers all types of wool) for the base period was 18.3 cents. On March 15, 1939, "the index number of prices paid by farmers, interest, and taxes" was 126, which produced the wool parity price of 22.75 cents. The announcement of the wool loan on March 25, 1939, said: "Loans to producers are expected to average 17 to 18 cents per grease pound." The farm price of wool on March 15, 1939, was 20 cents. The loan was therefore approximately 87.5 per cent of the market.

Reference has been made above to import parity prices of wool, and we feel that such prices are entitled to more consideration than in former years in determining a safe and justifiable loan rate for wools.

The import parity price of any grade of wool is the price of a comparable grade in the world market plus the American duty (for most wool) of 34 cents per pound of clean content. Such a price should always be secured by our domestic growers if proper methods of financing and marketing were employed. Due to the fact that England has now taken possession of approximately 50 per cent of the wool clip of the world for the duration of the war and one year thereafter and has now named upset prices at which limited quantities of fine wool will be released in the United States, there is an added degree of stability provided to foreign importing parity that should be reflected in a more stable domestic market for a similar period.

On March 15, 1939, the import parity price of class 3 wools (good French combing) was 70 cents. The loan value for that type was 56 cents, or 80 per cent of import parity. The present import parity price of class 3 wools is 95 cents. A loan on the

same percentage of market, as in 1939, would therefore be 76 cents at this time. Determination of the new wool loan rates, with more consideration to import parity prices than in other years, would call for a corresponding adjustment of loan values for different classes of wool which are shown on the attached C.C.C. Wool Form 1.

Wool in Government Contracts

CARRYING out the instruction of section 35 of the 1940 Platform and Program of the National Wool Growers Association (February Wool Grower, page 8), to urge the Army and Navy departments to specify the use of domestic wools in the filling of government contracts, the National Secretary addressed the following letter to the Secretary of War and a similar one to the Secretary of the Navy.

February 6, 1940

The Secretary of War
The War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the recent annual convention of this association, I was instructed to urge your department to specify the use of domestic wool in the filling of government contracts.

Since that time I have studied the law on the question, and while it seems to be required that domestic products be given preference, yet, as is undoubtedly necessary, some discretion is allowed under certain circumstances.

Our study of the official report of the stocks of domestic wool as of December 30, 1939, indicates that there was a considerable supply of the various grades of domestic wool in the hands of the manufacturers, and smaller amounts in dealers' hands.

We have understood that in tendering bids for cloth to your department, some manufacturers have recently offered prices on materials to contain some foreign wool.

I would be pleased to have you advise me as to whether or not you are accepting any bids for materials to contain foreign wool, and also, if possible, whether you anticipate it will be necessary to permit the use of foreign wool before the delivery of the 1940 domestic clip.

Yours very truly,
F. R. Marshall

Replies have come from both departments as printed below.

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

Western South Dakota Sheep Growers' Convention, Belle Fourche, South Dakota: April 9.
Nebraska Feeders' Day, Lincoln, Nebr.: April 19.
Western International Sheep Dog Trials, Sacramento, California: May 19-21.
California Wool Show and Ram Sale, Sacramento, California: May 21-22.
Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah: June 4-6.
National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah: August 27-28.
New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque, N. M.: September 28.
Pacific International Livestock Show, Portland: October 5-12.
Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah: October 5-11.
Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco: October 16-25.
Great Western Livestock Show, Los Angeles: October 26-November 1.
American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City: November 9-16.
International Livestock Exposition, Chicago: November 30-December 7.

From the Navy

14 February, 1940

Sir:

The acceptance of bids proposing to deliver cloth made from imported wool is controlled by the act of 3 March, 1933, (47 Stat. 1520; 41 U. S. Code Sec. 10a).^{*} By the provisions of this law a distinct preference is given to bids proposing to deliver cloth made from domestic wool.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of "Notice to Prospective Bidders" issued 8 March 1933, setting forth the guiding principles in the consideration of bids proposing to deliver foreign material. The records show that no difficulties have been experienced in the purchase of cloth made from domestic wool.

The Navy Department has not made a study in sufficient detail of the available supply of domestic wool to determine whether the domestic supply is sufficient to supply all the demands at the present time. If you desire further information with respect to the availability of a domestic supply of wool to meet all governmental needs, or whether it may be necessary to permit the use of foreign wool before delivery of the 1940 domestic clip, it is suggested that you address your inquiry to the Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully,

Ray Spear
Rear Admiral U. S. Navy
Paymaster General of the Navy

(*Printed in the February Wool Grower, page 22.)

From the Army

February 15, 1940

Gentlemen:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated February 6, 1940, in reply to which I am pleased to inform you that on the bids for cloth referred to contracts were awarded to those bidders who offered production from domestic grown wools and that the bids which offered foreign wools, all or in part, although somewhat lower in price, were rejected.

This office is familiar with the conditions in the domestic wool market and considering the limited requirements for woollen cloth by the Army at the present time, it is believed that a resort to foreign wools in procurements of cloth before delivery of the 1940 domestic clip will not be necessary. It must be understood, however, that if bid prices on cloth from domestic wools are unreasonably out of line with those on foreign wools, the discretion given The Secretary of War by law must be exercised.

Very truly yours,
Louis Johnson,
The Assistant Secretary of War

House Vote on Extension Of Reciprocal Trade Agreements

H.R. 407, the joint resolution providing for the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 216 to 168 on February 23. Representatives from western states lined up as follows:

For Extension:

Arizona: Murdock.

California: Buck, Costello, Thomas F. Ford, Geyer, Havenner, Izac, Kramer, Lea, Sheppard, Tolan, Voorhis and Welch.

Colorado: Cummings and Lewis.

Texas: Beckworth, Dies, Garrett, Gossett, Luther A. Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Jones, Kleberg, Lanham, Mahon, Mansfield, Patman, Patton, Poage, Rayburn, South, Sumners, Thomason, and West.

Utah: Murdock and Robinson.

Washington: Hill.

Against Extension:

California: Anderson, Carter, Elliott, Englebright, Leland M. Ford, Gearhart and Hinshaw.

Idaho: Dworshak and White.

Montana: O'Connor and Thorkelson.

Nevada: Scrugham.

New Mexico: Dempsey.

Oregon: Angell, Mott and Pierce.

South Dakota: Case and Mundt.

Texas: Kilday.

Washington: Coffee, Leavy, Magnuson, Smith and Wallgren.

Wyoming: Horton.

Effect of Reciprocal Trade Agreements On the Wool Growing Industry

*Statement of Secretary Marshall before the Senate Finance Committee
on February 29 in Opposition to the Extension of the Reciprocal
Trade Agreements Act.*

MR. MARSHALL. My name is F. R. Marshall. I reside in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am secretary of and speak for the National Wool Growers Association. I am also a wool grower myself; in fact, all of the debts I have incurred were incurred in an effort to demonstrate what I thought was my superior knowledge of growing wool. So far, I have only the debts to show for it.

Our association is the oldest agricultural organization in this country. The president of our association is Mr. C. B. Wardlaw, of Texas. He was scheduled to appear, but found that he could not. Likewise, the Secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association is present. He was scheduled, but he has authorized me to state that he has read my statement and would adopt the testimony as though it were his own.

As I understand it, the matter before the committee is House Resolution 407, the joint resolution, which was passed by the House last Friday?

THE CHAIRMAN. That is right.

MR. MARSHALL. So that you may know for whom we attempt to speak, ours is the oldest agricultural organization in this country. It consists, mainly, of an affiliation of associations in the 13 so-called range states, including Texas. There are no other similar organizations in these states. The 13 states have 33,814,000, or 69 per cent, of all sheep in the United States. There are about 100,000 sheep owners in these states. In the unorganized states, or those not affiliated with the national body, there are over 500,000 owners with 31 per cent of the total sheep population, or 14,600,000 head.

On January 25, in its seventy-fifth annual convention, our association adopted by unanimous vote this statement:

2. TRADE TREATIES

"During the past year we have observed the detrimental effect on the wool-growing industry by reason of the trade agreements negotiated with Great Britain and Canada, and the proposed trade agreements with Argentina. They have deprived the citizens and taxpayers of this country of their own markets to the advantage of Great Britain, and the anticipated trade agreement with Argentina has adversely affected the demand for the coarser wools and mohair.

"We again place ourselves on record as opposing the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and demand that it be permitted to lapse on June 12, 1940; that the terms of the Constitution of the United States be complied with wherein all acts pertaining to revenue originate in the House of Representatives, and that all treaties be approved by the Senate of the United States before becoming effective."

THE CHAIRMAN. Has that been the policy of the wool growers' association for the last 15 years?

MR. MARSHALL. I do not think it goes back as far as that.

THE CHAIRMAN. Since the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, it has been opposition?

MR. MARSHALL. Oh, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN. You were against the policy then?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN. You were against it in 1937?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN. And you are against it now?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes. We are at least consistent, I think.

THE CHAIRMAN. Were you with the organization in the same capacity that you are now, in 1922?

MR. MARSHALL. I held the same position in 1920 and 1921, and was here a good deal when the Fordney-McCumber bill was written, and a great deal when the Hawley-Smoot bill was written.

THE CHAIRMAN. Did you approve of the rates in the Fordney-McCumber tariff?

MR. MARSHALL. We did not get quite what we were entitled to, but we were glad to get that much, and the same about the Smoot-Hawley.

THE CHAIRMAN. What did you advocate at the time of the Fordney-McCumber?

MR. MARSHALL. I cannot recall clearly. I think we got 31 cents there. I think our figures on the basis then employed seemed to us to indicate a justification of 35 or 36 cents. In the Smoot-Hawley, while we got 34 cents finally, we submitted to the committee a record of difference in cost of pro-

duction which showed about 40 cents as the best we could compute at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN. I understood that what was enacted in the Smoot-Hawley bill was what you suggested, 34 and 35?

MR. MARSHALL. No; we had suggested more than that. We gave figures which were the best that we could produce, to show the difference in cost of production was around 40 cents, and the Congress gave us 34. That is on the principal grade, Senator. You must always remember, and it comes up in connection with the Argentine business, that there are parts of the imported wool that come in now at the rate of 29 cents, and which were reduced in the Smoot-Hawley bill from 31 in 1930, and there are some other wools that come in under paragraph 1101 at the 24-cent rate, but the main duty is the 34-cent rate.

THE CHAIRMAN. What rate did you advocate in 1922 on rags and waste?

MR. MARSHALL. We had not awakened to that, Senator. I don't remember the issue, but you remember what we advocated in 1929 and 1930.

THE CHAIRMAN. Yes; some of us thought it was remarkable that we had to have a high rate on rags.

MR. MARSHALL. That is one difficulty I complain about on what the State Department has done to us, and which I will come to.

THE CHAIRMAN. That is your main contention now, isn't it?

MR. MARSHALL. That is the principal point on which we have actually been hurt. Our main concern is the anticipation of what we feel sure is ahead of us in case you extend this act, but I must confess frankly that we have gotten off pretty well so far, but we are awfully afraid of the future.

THE CHAIRMAN. You did not appreciate in 1922 and in 1930 that the high rate on rags and waste would hurt the wool growers of the United States? Of the West?

MR. MARSHALL. You know how we found out about it—through your good friend, Joe Grundy. You know what happened in 1930.

THE CHAIRMAN. I was in line with what he was doing then.

MR. MARSHALL. I knew you were in line with him on some things, but I did not know whether you were on that. We still think he was a statesman.

THE CHAIRMAN. He was the one that picked the flaw in that and showed the wool people of the West that you might be hurt by this high rate on rags and waste.

MR. MARSHALL. Yes; and over the opposition of most of the Republican Senators from manufacturing states the rates in paragraph 1105 were raised. Senator Grundy, I think, was in the Senate at that time. I don't think he voted on that schedule. He took his seat just before they voted on 1106, I believe.

THE CHAIRMAN. All right.

MR. MARSHALL. If it is in order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to read for the record something that just reached me in this morning's mail from Boston. It is a resolution in this connection adopted on February 27 by the Boston Wool Trade Association. I do not find their appearance scheduled on the calendar, and if it is permissible, I would just like to leave their statement for the record as coming from the Boston Wool Trade Association with this explanation.

The Boston Wool Trade Association, properly the executive committee, in a meeting on February 27, passed the following resolution:

"Being firmly of the belief that the authority to make reciprocal trade treaties with foreign governments which has been delegated by Congress, has proved to be detrimental to the best interests of the country and in particular to the growers and manufacturers of wool,

"The executive committee of the Boston Wool Trade Association has today voted, unanimously, to recommend to the Congress:

"That ratification by the Senate of the United States be required in respect to all trade treaties which may be negotiated in the future."

I think there is something of considerable interest in that, because you will notice the authors of that resolution do not claim that their industry has been hurt. They are dealers, and some of them are commission men; they just take the market as they find it, but they are in the market all the time. This particular association handles over 80 per cent of all of the wool grown in the United States.

THE CHAIRMAN. What is the name of the association, did you say?

MR. MARSHALL. The Boston Wool Trade Association.

THE CHAIRMAN. You say they endorse the agreements?

MR. MARSHALL. No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN. They do not?

MR. MARSHALL. No. They say that it is injurious to the growers and the manufacturers.

THE CHAIRMAN. Both?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes. They do not claim they have injured them, because they are dealers, dealing in domestic and foreign wool and selling it to the mills, but they are in the position to be the best judges of what affects the market and how it affects it.

SENATOR WALSH. The Boston Wool Trade Association handles both domestic wool and imported wool?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes, sir.

SENATOR WALSH. What percentage do they handle of each kind?

MR. MARSHALL. It is hard to get at that exactly. I have a table here later on which will show that in 1937, the wool used by the mills in that year was 72.7 per cent domestic and the balance foreign. In 1939, it was 88 per cent domestic and the balance, 12 per cent, foreign.

That, Senator, however, has no regard for the carpet wools, because they are free and we never figure them. But much of the carpet wool, which amounts to around 120,000,000 pounds, I think, is handled in Philadelphia.

SENATOR WALSH. No carpet wool is raised in this country?

MR. MARSHALL. No, sir; not of any account.

SENATOR WALSH. Has there been any reduction in the tariff duties on imported wool under these agreements?

MR. MARSHALL. Not on the wool itself, but on the waste, which the chairman and I have just been talking about.

SENATOR WALSH. On raw wool as such, or virgin wool, has there been any change?

MR. MARSHALL. It has not been touched yet, but we think it is in serious jeopardy. I will touch on that a little later on.

In 1935 and 1936 we appeared in defense of our industry before the Committee for Reciprocity Information when negotiations were in progress for trade agreements with Canada, Belgium, and France. In those days we had no information as to what duties were being considered for reduction. We had to shoot at everything that could come from the other country. We were lucky at those times because the only injury we received was through some reductions in duties on some wastes that, when cheap enough, are used by American manufacturers as substitutes for our wool.

Then in 1938 we appeared and testified in regard to the duty on lamb, which was scheduled for a reduction in favor of Canada, and which would have, of course, been available to New Zealand, Australia, or Argentina if that country's standards of animal health had been as good as those of the United States. We escaped that time.

At about the same time we also had to appear before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in the hearings on proposals from the United Kingdom that the United States lower its duties upon wool wastes, rags, and cloth. That time we got hurt.

The duty on rags was cut 50 per cent and the 1939 imports were over 8,000,000 pounds, an increase of 785 per cent over 1938 imports, this material coming in direct competition with our wool in the Boston market.

I will not go into the increased imports of other wastes, or of cloth, except to say that in 1939 imports of fabrics were around 7,000,000 pounds greater than in 1938, which means that the equivalent of 21,000,000 pounds increased imports of wool came in in manufactured form.

A summary of the increased imports of wool wastes and goods, caused by the trade agreement with the United Kingdom, appears in this statement as table 1.

Now I wish to refer to two possible agreements, one of which has been started, that with the Argentine, and discontinued. The other is the Australian agreement.

Last October we testified before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in opposition to reduction of duties on wools coarser than 44's. We showed that the duty on such wool had been lowered by the Tariff Act of 1930 and that 80,000,000 pounds, or 20 per cent of the American clip was composed of, or competitive with, the kind of wool then listed for a possible duty reduction.

I shall not remind you that that proposed agreement dealt almost exclusively with agricultural products grown in this country and some of them in the surplus class. The Argentine agreement has been dropped, but we do not know when negotiations may be reopened. While it was under consideration, wool manufacturers and dealers naturally delayed purchases of 44's wool or demanded a lower price because a reduction of duty seemed probable.

In 1938 a more serious injury was worked upon the wool grower's market because of conversations relating to a trade agreement with Australia and reduction of wool duties. True, there was no official announcement of intention to negotiate with Australia. But it was known and admitted that there had been unofficial conversations between representatives of the Australian government and our State Department pertaining to the duty on wool from Australia.

We cannot know when these conversations will be resumed and when the news may leak out to the trade, nor when there may be official announcement of negotiations with Australia.

I am sure you will agree that the showing made in table 2 of my statement is conclusive evidence that the present duty on apparel wool is fairly and scientifically adjusted.

I have here a table setting forth the wool production in the United States for the years 1930 to 1939, inclusive, the total mill consumption in each of those years, that is only of the apparel wools, with no regard to carpet wools, and the percentage each year of

TABLE 1.—Comparison of imports under Schedule 11, Tariff Act, for calendar year of 1938 compared with calendar year of 1939

(The increase in imports may be attributed to the trade agreement with the United Kingdom which became effective Jan. 1, 1939)

ITEM	January-December 1938, inclusive		January-December 1939, inclusive	
	Amount	Value	Amount	Value
Noils, pounds	2,279,032	\$1,164,682	6,031,629	\$2,412,981
Wastes, pounds	729,737	295,974	3,903,672	1,270,015
Rags, pounds	794,436	262,201	8,417,818	2,321,943
Yarn: Mohair, pounds	2,698	3,982	7,230	8,393
Fabrics, worsteds:				
Under 4 ounces, square yards	352,874	130,395	736,559	262,364
Pounds	70,003		149,277	
Over 4 ounces, square yards	955,630	837,256	2,055,694	2,055,770
Pounds	418,720		1,580,408	
Woolens:				
Over 4 ounces, square yards	4,847,859	4,106,878	8,190,126	6,368,257
Pounds	2,841,044		4,827,495	
Wearing apparel		4,965,181		4,315,658

ITEM	1939 increase over 1938		Per Cent increase, amount	United Kingdom duty differential
	Amount	Value		
Noils, pounds	3,742,597	\$1,248,299	164.22	7 to 9 cents
Wastes, pounds	3,173,935	974,041	434.94	3 to 10 cents
Rags, pounds	7,623,382	2,059,742	785.56	9 cents
Yarn: Mohair, pounds	4,532	4,411	167.98	5 to 15 percent average
Fabrics, worsteds:				
Under 4 ounces, square yards	383,685	131,969	108.73	12½ percent average
Pounds	79,274		110.39	
Over 4 ounces, square yards	2,100,064	1,218,524	219.76	5 to 25 percent average
Pounds	1,161,688		277.44	
Woolens:				
Over 4 ounces, square yards	3,342,267	2,261,379	68.94	Do.
Pounds	1,986,451		69.92	
Wearing apparel		—649,523	—13.08	(See.)

that consumption which was domestic. It runs as high in 1932 as 95 per cent domestic and in 1937, 72.7 per cent domestic, or 27.3 per cent foreign.

SENATOR DAVIS. What is the total production of wool in the United States?

MR. MARSHALL. In 1939, it was 441,000,000 pounds. That includes the pulled wool from the packers, all converted into the same basis, what we call the greasy shorn wool basis, the same way that the farmers sell it. We have been increasing our production very steadily.

SENATOR DAVIS. What were the total imports during that same period?

MR. MARSHALL. I haven't the figures. This table just shows the proportion of the annual consumption. They have been running some years as high as 80, 90, and 100 million for apparel purposes in the good consuming years, and in years like 1932, they were, of course, very very low, but I should say probably an average of around 50,000,000.

SENATOR JOHNSON. Does your table also show the carry-over?

MR. MARSHALL. No, sir; I have not given that in here. I did not think, Senator Johnson, that the wool rates themselves were

directly at issue. I realize now that while they are not before this committee, the question before this committee does directly go to the possibility, and I would say the probability, of a reduction in the wool rates in case the committee recommends the House resolution and it becomes a law, because we have found that any action under this law means reduction.

THE CHAIRMAN. You make that statement, and yet you say that on raw wool there has been no reduction in any of the negotiated trade agreements?

MR. MARSHALL. That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN. The only reduction has been on the rags and waste.

MR. MARSHALL. And the cloth which affects us indirectly.

THE CHAIRMAN. If these reciprocal trade agreements have been going on for 6 years without reducing your rates at all, why do you make the statement that you think they will be lowered?

MR. MARSHALL. We think that we are next on the list, from the information we get second-hand from the State Department. Our information is that they considered the United Kingdom trade agreement as the crowning point of the trade-agreements pro-

gram, and we think that is perfectly natural and proper. We know they have attempted and started trade-agreement negotiations with Australia. If you could just give us assurance even for 3 years that they will leave our wool schedule alone, we would get out of here pretty quick.

THE CHAIRMAN. This committee can not give anybody any assurance like that, but it seems to me that you have pretty good assurance that if in 6 years it has not been touched, and you are frightened now because of some conversation you say somebody said that they heard between some people from other countries, if that is all that you have to go on—

MR. MARSHALL (interposing). No, sir. We know that Commissioner McGregor, the Australian Commissioner at New York, was several times present at the State Department in what the State Department later officially said were preliminary conversations to see what the prospects were for reaching agreeable terms on negotiations for a trade agreement. We know from some of the people who work with the State Department that the chief subject of those conversations was the duty on wool. Our opinion is, and it may be wrong, that if it had not been for the war conditions, the intention or plan of negotiating with Australia probably would have been announced before this time. We think our fears are pretty well grounded, but I strongly hope that we are wrong.

* * *

THE CHAIRMAN. Who is helped by virtue of getting a little reduction on these rags and on these wastes?

MR. MARSHALL. The manufacturers of cheap woollen goods. We do not think that the consumer is helped. Of course, that is a matter of argument.

SENATOR WALSH. As I understand your position, you are not affected—the dealer—because of any reduction in duties on wool, but you fear that in the future the reduction that has already been made on woollen cloth may reduce the wool consumption market, and therefore indirectly you will be affected?

MR. MARSHALL. I am representing the growers, not the dealers. I go a little further, Senator Walsh. The increased imports of cloth in 1939 necessarily reduced the volume of the demand for wool, including our wool. We anticipate that will go further, and what we chiefly anticipate is the reduction in the wool duty prescribed in paragraph 1102.

SENATOR WALSH. You or somebody else, I suppose, will attempt to show that the reduction in certain grades of woollen cloth has led to an increase in imports?

MR. MARSHALL. I feel certain that Mr. Besse, representing the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, will go into detail on that tomorrow. I might speak on that, but I am sure that Mr. Besse can do it much better than I can.

SENATOR WALSH. Very well.

MR. MARSHALL. Wool imports come in freely when needed. In 1932 when the tariff could not help the growers our mills imported but 5 per cent of their wool, but in 1937 they imported 27.3 per cent, and in 1939, 12 per cent.

Table 2 shows, for the last 10 years, the annual production and total consumption of apparel wool, and the proportion of the latter that was of domestic origin.

It is my duty to again ask you to consider whether these attempts and beginnings at lowering the principal wool duty are in harmony with our President's plainly announced policy so clearly expressed in his letter to a member of this body.

I know you are familiar with that letter, Senator, but I must put it in the record again. It is as follows:

"THE WHITE HOUSE

"Washington, June 5, 1934.

"MY DEAR SENATOR O'MAHONEY: My concern that agricultural prices should be protected and where possible substantially raised, ought to be well known by this time. This is why I was surprised that a question should be raised about wool. The new tariff bill has been thought of as one of the emergency measures which would help in the general effort to rehabilitate agriculture and industry together."

The new tariff bill which the President referred to there, of course, was the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, which was then before the Congress.

Continuing with the letter:

"The wool industry is one of those which need price protection and the suggestion that the new tariff bill might be used to lower those prices is one which would not have occurred to me. That is the thought I expressed to you, Senator Costigan, and others on May 19. I have read the statement which you issued and as I might expect, it correctly reports the facts.

"I hope you will have no further concern for fear that something damaging to the industry may result from this legislation.

"Very sincerely yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

I will not read the statement which is in my manuscript and which resulted in the President's sending Senator O'Mahoney this letter, but I should like the privilege of inserting it in connection with my remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN. Yes.

The statement by Senator O'Mahoney, to which the President referred, was issued on May 9, 1934, and reads as follows:

"President Roosevelt today gave renewed evidence that he is in complete sympathy with the West. Immediately after signing the sugar bill which stabilizes the price of sugar for all domestic producers, the President in the presence of Senator Costigan and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Tugwell, authorized me to say that he and his administration are as much concerned in main-

TABLE 2.—Domestic wool production: Consumption for apparel and percentage of domestic (all figures for equivalent of greasy shorn wool including pulled wool)

(Thousands of pounds)

	Production	Consumption, Total	Per Cent Domestic		Production	Consumption, Total	Per Cent Domestic
1930.....	414,029	447,900	81.2	1935.....	430,667	748,400	94.8
1931.....	442,401	545,200	89.6	1936.....	420,327	666,400	83.6
1932.....	418,096	439,800	95.0	1937.....	427,859	579,500	72.7
1933.....	438,352	572,200	94.0	1938.....	436,000	513,900	92.5
1934.....	430,829	381,400	90.4	1939.....	441,000	673,900	88.0

taining the price of wool as they are in maintaining the price of wheat, cotton, and other agricultural commodities.

"I told the President that wool buyers recently have been making low offers on wool and that there has been considerable apprehension lest the reciprocity policy would mean sweeping reduction in the tariff on wool and an adverse effect upon the market. I told him that I have been advising the people of my state that an administration, the primary object of which is to improve the condition of agriculture, could be depended upon not to take any hostile action toward the wool industry. The President replied that in this position I was exactly correct. Both he and Secretary Tugwell agreed that this administration should do everything possible to maintain the price of wool and the President said that he recognized wool growing as one of the fundamental agricultural industries and desired to be helpful to it."

MR. MARSHALL. Now as to import restriction and animal health—on October 2, 1939, we appeared before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in opposition to reductions of duty proposed to be made in negotiation of a trade agreement with Argentina. Duties on fresh meats, or live meat animals, were not under consideration then, because, as the Department of State had announced, the Argentina sanitary convention had not been acted upon by the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate.

There was some discussion at that meeting with members of the Committee for Reciprocity Information, as to existing import restrictions, relating to the health of animals in meat-exporting countries, as now carried in section 306-a of the present tariff act.

Some good lawyers, and apparently some lawyers in the Department of State, are of the opinion that the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act does empower the President to deal as he chooses with all import restrictions such as that contained in section 306-a of the Tariff Act of 1930.

I strongly urge that your committee amend House Joint Resolution 407, so as to amend the act of 1934, by definitely taking section 306-a of the present law out of the import restrictions as defined in the act of 1934.

In other words, I ask you to make sure that the Department of State shall not interfere with the directions given by Congress for safeguarding the health of livestock in this country. At first you will think my imagination has gone wrong, but just let me get the facts before you.

On June 5, 1935, the President sent to the Senate a document containing a proposed Argentine sanitary convention, signed on May 24, 1935, by Secretary Hull and the Argentine Ambassador. That convention is still where we like to see it—in the files of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

THE CHAIRMAN. If it were going to be considered by the Senate, it would have to be sent there?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN. And considered by the Foreign Relations Committee?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN. And nothing has been done about it?

MR. MARSHALL. Which is very pleasing to us.

THE CHAIRMAN. Then why should you get so fearful about it?

MR. MARSHALL. I think I can tell you. I think we have good grounds for our fears. Since you have asked it, I had better read the language that is in that convention, which I propose to ask you to consider further. The paragraph in the proposed convention contains this language:

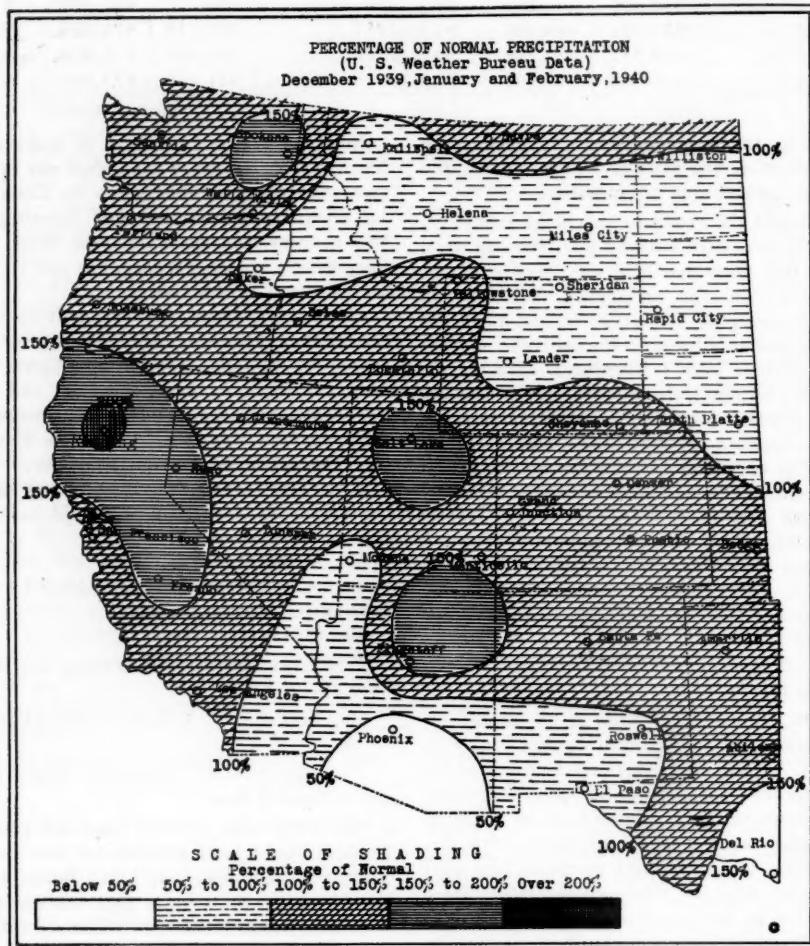
"In the event that the government of either of the contracting countries makes representation to the government of the other country in respect of the application of any sanitary law or regulation for the protection of human, animal, or plant health or life, and if there is disagreement with respect thereto, a committee of technical experts on which each contracting government will be represented shall, on the request of either government, be established to consider the matter and to submit recommendations to the two governments."

Of course, as I say, Mr. Chairman, the Senate has not approved that proposal nor any part of the Argentine convention, and I hope they never will.

THE CHAIRMAN. Not only that, but it has not even come up, as I recall, and I think I am a member of that committee and I

(Continued on page 26)

The Winter's Moisture



Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During December, 1939, and January and February, 1940, With Departures from Normal, for 3 Months, and 6 Months — In Inches

	Normal 3-Months' Precipitation	Actual 3-Months' Precipitation	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 3 Months	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 6 Months
WASHINGTON—				
Seattle	14.43	20.11	+5.68	+2.34
Spokane	6.08	9.48	+3.40	+0.70
Walla Walla	5.78	8.55	+2.77	+0.16
OREGON—				
Portland	18.68	21.53	+2.85	+3.88
Pendleton	4.96	.....	.....	.....
Baker	4.32	4.14	—0.18	—1.82
Roseburg	15.14	20.30	+5.16	+0.28
CALIFORNIA—				
Redding	19.08	39.83	+20.75	+15.29
San Francisco..	12.44	14.64	+2.20	—0.29
Fresno	4.61	9.20	+4.59	+4.08
Los Angeles.....	8.80	10.07	+1.27	+5.10
NEVADA—				
Winnemucca	3.02	3.83	+0.81	+1.91
Reno	3.70	5.66	+1.96	+2.42
Tonopah	1.10	.....	.....	.....
ARIZONA—				
Phoenix	2.57	0.64	—1.93	+2.33
Flagstaff	7.18	3.59	+3.59	+4.04
NEW MEXICO—				
Santa Fe	2.16	2.78	+0.62	+1.78
Roswell	1.76	1.61	—0.15	—3.25
TEXAS—				
Amarillo	2.02	2.40	+0.38	—2.89
Abilene	3.31	4.58	+1.27	—1.34
Del Rio	1.79	3.10	+1.31	—0.95
El Paso	1.39	1.13	—0.26	—0.23
MONTANA—				
Helena	2.30	1.59	—0.71	—1.41
Kalispell	4.13	3.62	—0.51	—2.40
Havre	1.84	2.26	+0.42	—0.70
Miles City.....	1.78	1.06	—0.72	—2.52
Williston, N.D.	1.53	1.53	0.00	—1.19
IDAHO—				
Boise	4.74	5.03	+0.29	—0.40
Pocatello	3.87	4.15	+0.28	—1.11
UTAH—				
Salt Lake City..	4.25	6.86	+2.61	+0.84
Fillmore .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Castle Dale .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Monticello .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Modena	2.63	2.39	—0.24	+1.72
WYOMING—				
Yellowstone Pk.	2.87	3.41	+0.54	.....
Sheridan	2.19	1.70	—0.49	—2.24
Lander	1.87	1.58	—0.29	—2.22
Cheyenne	1.61	2.40	+0.79	—0.97
Rapid City, S.D.	1.37	0.70	—0.67	—1.16
N. Platte, Neb.	1.45	1.15	—0.30	—2.43
COLORADO—				
Denver	1.66	1.74	+0.08	—1.13
Pueblo	1.28	1.83	+0.55	—0.37
Grand Junction	1.81	2.56	+0.75	+1.42
Dodge City, Kan.	1.75	1.99	—0.24	—3.37

THE precipitation during the past winter has been more unevenly distributed than for a great many years. A few localities, for example, in California and Arizona, received more than twice the normal moisture. A little over half the western range territory received rain and snow in excess of 100 per cent, roughly from Texas to the entire Pacific Coast. But by way of contrast, much of Montana, Wyoming, the Northern Great Plains States, and the Mexican boundary region received much less than normal. December was dry practically everywhere, excepting only in the far Northwest and parts of

the Texas Southwest and northern Montana. January was unusually wet in California, southern Idaho, northern Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico; and unusually dry in the Pacific Northwest, Montana, southern Utah, and Arizona. February was also exceptionally wet throughout practically the entire western range territory, excepting only Arizona, where each winter month brought subnormal moisture. Conditions are fairly promising for spring and early summer soil moisture in most states as a consequence of the copious rains and snows during February.

Around the Range Country

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION BY STATES FOR FEBRUARY, 1940

	%
Arizona	141
California	203
Colorado	120
Idaho	216
Montana	195
Nevada	147
New Mexico	165
Oregon	210
South Dakota	109
Texas	105
Utah	178
Washington	199
Wyoming	139

WESTERN TEXAS

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, with no cold snaps of importance; but rains and snows were inadequate, and range forage has continued scarce and comparatively poor. As a consequence some feeding has been necessary rather generally, and livestock are reported in only fair to good condition, some being poor in the drier areas.

Coleman (Coleman County)

This has been the coldest winter we have had in a long time we have done more feeding and fed a larger number of sheep than usual. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$18 a ton (February 24). Our winter losses have been greater, too, about 20 per cent above last year's.

Earlier offers of 27½ to 30 cents were made on 1940 wool, but none have been made in the last two months. I think most of the wool growers of this section will be inclined to sell their clips at shearing time.

George Rhone

Ft. Stockton (Pecos County)

The weather is bad (February 20); feed conditions are fair, with sufficient moisture to make green feed when

warm weather arrives. Baled alfalfa hay is \$16 a ton.

It is really too early to predict whether or not growers will hold their clips beyond shearing time for higher prices; so far no contracting of 1940 wools has been done around here.

Competition with foreign wools and the effect of the "New Deal" on big business are two of the most important adverse factors in the wool industry today. There is too much uncertainty, especially in connection with present methods of handling the tariff. Congress should handle any necessary adjustments in tariff duties.

Coyotes are less troublesome than formerly due to the work done by government trappers and those employed by the ranchmen themselves.

Dow Puckett

ARIZONA

Normal, or fairly mild temperatures prevailed, being very favorable on livestock. Light to moderate rains or snows, some of them being heavy locally, were very beneficial to range forage and forage and grain crops. Livestock have continued in fairly good condition, excepting only in the northeastern portion where they have been fair. Water supplies have been scarce in some localities.

Yuma (Yuma County)

There is some range left at my place in Roll, Arizona, (February 23), but farmers won't irrigate in winter, so there is no pasture to be purchased. Loose hay is costing \$8 a ton; baled, \$10. Our winter losses have been about average.

No contracting of 1940 wool has been done around here, so far as I know, but I believe most of the wool will be sold at time of shearing.

It is easy to name the sheepman's most perplexing problem. It is the control of coyotes and lobo wolves, also tramp dogs. We have had to move

sheep out of Roll on account of them. Yesterday, Washington's Birthday, I saw three coyotes chasing one cottontail in my pasture, but he ran into a hole.

I favor the handling of tariffs through trade agreements.

J. Fred Hoover

NEW MEXICO

Normal temperatures prevailed, with an even distribution of the variations, none very mild and none very cold. Snows were ample over most of the southern portion and rains added moisture to the soils, favoring forage and crops. Ranges are generally in fair to good condition and cattle and sheep have held up in pretty good shape.

Albuquerque (Bernalillo County)

This has been a fairly easy winter and I believe there is less than usual feeding in most parts of the state (February 26). However, I do get reports that in certain sections the grass has less than usual strength. Winter losses have been very light, less than average. Alfalfa hay can be bought at about \$12 a ton in the Rio Grande Valley.

There has been no activity in wool, that is, no contract offers. Sheepmen in this state are in very fair shape financially and I think will be slow sellers unless the price is fairly high.

New Mexico stockmen in the west side of the state are beset by so many governmental agencies trying by various means to secure control of range land that they are apprehensive about the future. The taxpayers' money has simply been squandered when one considers the prices that have been paid for very ordinary range land during the past six or seven years. Our tax structure has been weakened in the state and many producers have been forced out of business.

I think Congress should pass upon all tariffs.

We have many more coyotes than were in evidence a year ago. Why?

Frank M. Bond

COLORADO

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, with no bad spells of cold weather. Snows were frequent, though there were no deep accumulations, save at the higher elevations, where a few livestock suffered somewhat, especially on the western slope. Considerable feeding was necessary in the Arkansas Valley due to snows on the range. Mild temperatures, however, were fine for range livestock. Most winter ranges were accessible and afforded ample snow and feed.

Placerville
(San Miguel County)

While we are having cold and stormy weather (February 23), it is not nearly so bad as a year ago; I guess it is just about normal for this time of year. Our losses in ewes during the winter are about the same as they were last year. We are also having less trouble with coyotes as a result of putting out more poison and doing more trapping.

Our chief problem is the lack of feed on the summer range. It is poor on account of a cold and dry season last summer; with the good fall of snow this winter, it probably will be better this year.

Most of the growers will be inclined to hold their wool, I believe, instead of selling at shearing time, unless prices advance.

All tariff making should be handled by Congress, in my opinion.

Lee J. Proper

UTAH

Unusually mild, wet weather prevailed, with ample moisture for vegetation, but owing to the thawing weather, snow did not remain on the desert ranges long enough to afford the best use of these areas. Considerable feeding was necessary, but feed was plentiful. Livestock are now in good condition and showing some improvement in most sections.

Tremonton
(Box Elder County)

February has been ideal, in my opin-

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of February.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

ion, for the range and for sheep on the range, but not so good for those in feed lots. It has not been cold and there has been an abundance of moisture (February 28), which should insure a good crop of grass for spring and summer.

About the usual number of range sheep are on feed. Most sheepmen started feeding about February 1. Hay has sold from \$7 to \$9 a ton in the stack and in most cases to be fed on farm where purchased.

My experience this winter and last fall in regard to coyotes has been that they were not so bad as in past years. However, some sheepmen say they were worse on their range. I think the Biological Survey, with its regular and W. P. A. trappers, is to be congratulated on the work it is doing.

The thing that is uppermost in the mind of the sheepman is: "How much am I going to get for my wool and lamb crops this year?" So far as I know, there have been no offers made by dealers to contract 1940 wools. A price of from 25 to 28 cents might buy some clips at shearing time, but generally I believe the grower will want 30 cents or better.

Israel Hunsaker

NEVADA

Mild weather with frequent light to moderate precipitation and occasional rather heavy falls of snow or rain, was

favorable for livestock interests. Range forage has continued good in nearly all sections in use, and livestock are reported doing well. Less than the usual amount of supplemental feeding has been necessary.

Reno
(Washoe County)

February has been a good month as far as weather is concerned. There have been no bad storms but plenty of rain. Forage is fairly good (the 23rd), with a little green feed started in some places. I think it has been a better winter for sheep than the last two or three.

The coyotes are bad, although not much worse than last year. The price of pelts is so low that very few trappers are out.

I do not know anything about this tariff business, but it seems to me it would be better to let Congress handle it.

The losses in ewes on the range have been about the same as last year.

I do not know of any of this year's clips being contracted. There may be a few more sheepmen hanging on to their wool than usual, as everybody hopes for a higher market than the present one.

Charles Aldabe

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were mostly normal, or well above, being highly favorable for livestock and for most forage and cover crops. Precipitation has been abundant for all range needs, and feed has been abundant. Livestock are, as a natural consequence, generally in good or excellent condition and there has been no unusual amount of feeding.

Soledad
(Monterey County)

Feed is growing well due to warm weather, and moisture is above last year's record. We have discontinued feeding hay since the first of February, but the present quotation on it is \$10 a ton.

Losses have been light during the winter, just about the same as last year,

(Continued on page 40)

A Fair Policy On Big Game

By Dr. H. L. Shantz, Chief,
Division of Wildlife Management, Forest Service,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

An Address Before the 75th Annual Convention of the
National Wool Growers Association, Casper,
Wyoming, January 25, 1940



Dr. H. L. Shantz

FOR several years I have hoped to be able to attend your national meeting, and this year when Fred Marshall invited me was able to accept. There are many reasons why I am glad to be here and take part in your 75th annual program. In the first place, I am anxious to look at these wildlife problems from a broad point of view. The wool growers have long been interested in the relation of wildlife to their industry. Moreover, the West has been built up largely on the livestock industry. If we are to look at our problem from a broad point of view, we must consider the various uses which have naturally developed on national forest lands.

Interest in the management of wild land has grown steadily throughout the years and it is to organizations such as yours that we must look for the establishment of sound practices in range management. Nor are the wildlife men unmindful of the great part the early ranchmen played in preserving the remnants of declining big game herds

against what would have been almost certain destruction. I came in contact with this western way of living first in 1892 when my father moved to Colorado. As I remember it in the 90's, the remnant of antelope herds were in certain well-known pastures, and I have seen as many as 250 antelope in the "Diamond Tail" pasture east of Fountain, Colorado.

Although I hunted the frontal range in the region of Pike's Peak almost every winter from 1892 to 1902, I saw only three deer in that whole period and was unable to kill either deer or antelope. Successful hunting was done on the west slope, on the Gunnison and on the Grand Mesa.

When the national forests were established in about 1908, big game had been reduced to a low level. Just how many animals there were at that time it is impossible to determine. Still some estimate can be made. We have a fairly good idea of the number of big game animals on the national forests now. We also know about how many there were in 1921. From these figures it is possible that the number in 1908 was only about 200,000 to 300,000 animals.

In 1921 our estimates for all national forests in the United States, including Alaska, placed the number of big game animals at about 642,000. They have steadily increased until at present our estimates show 1,840,000 or an increase nearly three times the 1921 value. The increase has amounted to a little more than doubling every 10 years. This is due partly to increases of game in the eastern forests, to concentrations in certain portions of the West and to a better distribution of animals. During

this same period (1921-1938 inclusive), domestic livestock use has decreased materially. This is due partly to economic changes in the North and extreme West, to better distribution, and adjustment to the carrying capacity of the range.

During later years, aided by drought and subnormal growth, big game concentrations have become one of our major problems. Only rarely have these problems developed in summer range. As a rule they have been on winter range. Here the problem has been complicated by diversified ownership of land. These natural winter ranges of big game animals are often summer or spring and fall ranges for domestic livestock. This land is sometimes in Forest Service ownership, at times in the grazing districts but more often the private land of the owner of the domestic livestock.

The difficulties in properly balancing use of these lands would be complicated if the game could be moved and controlled as can domestic livestock, but game can be controlled only as to numbers. In the West it moves from summer to winter range and, notwithstanding attempts to herd it away from certain lands, no satisfactory results have been recorded. Stockmen know exactly how to increase or decrease the number of animals in their herds and on their range. Big game has to be controlled in about the same way. Yet if game is too abundant on an area—let us say we have 10,000 more deer than the range will support—how can we go about it to secure a reduction in this number or a maintenance at that figure?

The Problem of Control

If the problem were put up to a group of people the following methods would be suggested:

First, many would say that nature would take care of the matter, do nothing, above all, don't kill any of the animals; they will leave when they are short of food. But often deer have been moved or driven from a deer yard where food had all been eaten to another swamp where food was abundant and in a short time they would all be back again. Cattle show the same tendency. So the result of this suggestion is death of the herd by starvation and disease and destruction of much of the perennial browse.

A second group will say, allow the predators to take them. Coyotes and mountain lion will save the forage by killing off the deer. Most of this group will also maintain that the coyotes and mountain lion will not catch all of the deer and that a balance of nature will be attained. But, from a management point of view, why feed 10,000 deer to coyotes and mountain lion? Moreover, the coyote and lion when built up in number as a result of abundant feed will exterminate the herd.

A third group will propose a buck kill. This will somewhat reduce the number but will not stop the rate of increase unless so many bucks are killed that the does are not bred. Then the result would be to maintain a sterile herd of does of no value to hunter or as breeding stock, to continue the destruction of the forage.

A fourth group would advocate trapping and moving. This could be done if there were only a few deer. But concentrations usually deal with thousands and tens of thousands and they cannot be trapped and moved in such numbers, nor can they be driven. The classic example is Zane Grey's Kaibab drive where hundreds of men and horses failed to move one of probably 10,000 animals which were before the driving line.

A fifth group would advocate artificial feeding. This is easily done with elk but all but impossible with mule deer. While there are practically no cases of successful feeding of deer, there are many cases where death loss

on feeding grounds exceeded that on similar areas where there was no feeding. Elk are fed each winter in Jackson's Hole, with the result that a large herd pushes out in spring over the snow-free crests, destroying most of the vegetation, and, due to their large number, gradually destroying their summer and spring and fall range. It is difficult to conceive of a condition more likely to destroy the great elk range from which this herd is drawn. In fact, it is probable that the best method of destroying a natural range is to supplement it by artificial feeding when animals become too abundant to find sufficient feed on the range. If the animals could be removed from the range and fed, as is done with domestic livestock, it might help, but with game the feeding is done on those areas which are already depleted by over-use.

Sheepmen must be the first to realize how inadequate would be a management of sheep if at a definite time they shot out their best rams and left the rest of the droves intact.

The only way devised to reduce big game herds is to kill females. Stockmen have given much attention to the improvement of their herds and flocks. But in game management we have as yet devised no system of harvesting the excess in such a way as to improve the remaining breeding animals.

Probably the nearest approach which can now be made is a kill which is not selective, where animals of all classes and sexes are taken. Slowly we are coming to this approach. But management of game is largely a term, only seldom applied. A tremendous emotional resistance has developed to oppose a rational approach to this problem. Moreover, a land managing agency, in this case the Forest Service, must work with and through the state game departments to secure the desired control upon its land. Often the people or their legislatures have not yet assigned to the state fish and game departments sufficient authority to properly control the harvest of game in the interest of the game herds and for the protection of the range.

One of the most difficult problems is that of recognizing when the deer have reached the carrying capacity of the

range. Often it is impossible to convince the interested parties that even with grass knee-high there is no feed for deer. The trimmed juniper are blamed on the sheep and every excuse is made except seeing the fact that from the standpoint of deer the range is gradually being destroyed. When the evidence is sufficiently plain to be seen, it is too late to correct the situation without great damage to the range.

Progress Made

Great advance in the management and control of big game animals has taken place in the last few years. In most of the states the legislatures have placed in their game and fish commissions power to control the harvest of fish and game as dictated by biological needs. Moreover, they have developed strong departments with technically trained men who are qualified to determine when the range is over-stocked with game and the best solution to over-stocking problems.

On the Allegheny National Forest last year the Pennsylvania Game Commission opened a season on does and fawns only, and 24,000 were taken. This, however, still left the forest more than fully stocked with a remaining herd of 38,000 animals.

Utah, last year, in order to decrease over-use on concentration areas authorized the killing of about 11,000 does. Elk overstocked areas have developed in many places. But one of the most satisfactory elk management programs is that in Utah where stockmen, sportsmen, forest officers and others constitute a commission to recommend to the State Game Department a kill of bulls and cows which will keep the herds within the carrying capacity of their ranges. Many other cases could be cited, indicating a steady advance toward a sound management approach to big game problems.

The Forest Service has consistently tried to approach the sometimes controversial subject of domestic stock and wild game uses of the national forests with an open mind. This is also its policy with regard to the recreational and other specialized uses and opportunities of these public properties. It adheres to the principle of sensible and prac-

tical proportions. As it has looked at the general matter of national forest services to the public, the local place and scope of any use must be determined from the history of past action and a long-time viewpoint, with an inventory of present records and needs, the different interests participating in outlining objectives, plans and programs. These considerations involve local inventories, the appraisal of various dependencies, human values and the determination of local priorities where there are any important questions of conflict. With wildlife the "Nature-take-its-course" plan of management, or the balance-of-nature theory are no longer pertinent any more than they would be pertinent to the management of a progressive livestock business. We have all awakened to the concept, I think, that whatever place wildlife may be conceded to have, it can no longer shift for itself, even on such areas as national parks where the policy is to preserve primitive wild conditions as fully as possible. There comes a time even on these areas in our modern civilization, when human controls must be invoked. Whatever position wildlife may have occupied in the earlier pioneer conditions of the country, in this twentieth century it must have the control, the help and the guidance of man; and that doesn't mean by the wildlife enthusiast alone.

So we start out with the premise that human management of this resource is necessary. It is necessary both from the standpoint of habitat that may be available for game and from the standpoint of the animals themselves.

The Forest Service believes that big game is an important resource, to be used and enjoyed, that to be of use it must be harvested as is any other crop and in such a way as to keep it in balance with other uses. Management, we believe, is the best and now the only assurance of the perpetuation of the species and of preventing its self-destruction. In this management we must be supported by an informed public opinion and have the cooperation of the state fish and game departments and of other interested agencies. The problems are not national-wide nor

state-wide but are local and must be adjusted according to local needs.

During February of last year we brought together in San Francisco our wildlife leaders in the Forest Service for a fuller consideration of objectives and policies and programs. There were, naturally, some differences of opinion but a surprising agreement was expressed and recorded on major problems and needs.

Objectives in Wildlife Management

In general terms, our objectives are to recognize the important recreational, aesthetic, economic, and educational values of wildlife, and to recognize also that wildlife is a major product of national forest lands.

Objectives in wildlife management are:

1. To provide and maintain a suitable year-long environment. This in the case of some of the big game species will require cooperation with private land owners, and with state and federal agencies to insure as far as may be practicable suitable winter grazing lands.
2. To restore and maintain appropriate populations. This implies restocking and protection in many areas and increased hunter take in others.
3. To integrate wildlife management with other forms of land use management.
4. To correlate wildlife with social and economic needs, especially those of local communities.
5. To cooperate with state, federal and other interested agencies to obtain utilization on a sustained yield basis.

All this presupposes that consideration will be given to preserving the basic resource of soil and vegetation, the progressive adjustment of livestock and big game numbers to the capacity of the available habitat, and the relationships between national forest land and intermingled and adjacent federal, state and private properties as to ownership responsibility. Nature's balances, even on areas as extensive as our public lands, are no longer pertinent. Starvation, when winter or other seasonal forage conditions are inadequate, is not a humane American or sportsman's approach to problems of game control, regardless of the very laudable growing country-wide sentiment favorable to the protection of wildlife.

It is recognized that big game animals compete with each other for the

same food; that deer are displaced by elk if populations are not controlled.

In considering this relationship, it is important to reflect that deer are potentially more prolific than elk and that the same amount of range feed will produce approximately three times as many deer as elk. Thus, more hunters can be provided with game per unit of game range by producing deer than by producing elk. Deer can be maintained on ranges in close proximity to ranches and farms with much less damage to agricultural crops and improvements than elk. Ranges providing the year-long requirements of elk without conflict with agricultural developments are much more restricted as to area and location than ranges fulfilling the requirements of deer.

Because of these considerations and with due consideration that certain provision should be made for the elk, the Forest Service will favor deer on ranges where elk menace and damage ranch property and crops and on ranges where the hunter demand requires the maximum number of game animals.

Control Cooperation

It will be the policy of the Forest Service to continue to cooperate with the states to the fullest extent possible in all matters appertaining to wildlife on national forests and related adjacent areas. In such cooperation three basic considerations are recognized:

(1) The state has the responsibility of regulating the activities of the people within its borders and state laws generally place on the fish and game department or comparable authority the responsibility for determining the ways and means for taking game and the kind and number the individual may take or possess.

(2) The federal government has the responsibility of managing its public lands and federal laws place on the Forest Service the responsibility of conserving and managing national forest lands.

(3) The appropriate fields of action of the two agencies can best be determined and their cooperative efforts have best opportunity for success under mutual agreements and plans.

The states, through their duly constituted game departments or commissions, game laws and legal machinery, constitute the largest present field of approach to cooperative wildlife man-

agement endeavor on the national forests. In due recognition of this fact, cooperative agreements of varying scope and intensity have been perfected or are in process of negotiation in all the states having important national forest wildlife possibilities. The Forest Service favors a democratic cooperative approach to these matters of mutual interest and responsibility, using all the factual and scientific information available to the many sided program of improving wildlife conditions and maintaining a consistent yield of fish, game, birds and fur-bearers as crops, to be harvested by licensed hunters, fishermen and trappers.

To attain these ends, big game management must provide for the maintenance of herd numbers within the carrying capacity of the year-long game range, natural production and wide distribution of game over the game range area, the proper ratio between the sexes, and the maintenance of superior qualities in the breeding herd.

Big game hunting should provide to the public, through distribution of hunting effort, an opportunity to hunt big game with a degree of isolation consistent with proper herd management and good sport.

The control of the kill factor in big game management has been endeavored through combinations of open hunting seasons, bag limits, antler class restrictions, the buck law, game refuges, etc., with varying degree of success.

In many cases these methods have not secured distribution of hunting effort over the entire range and both over-shooting and over-production have resulted to the detriment of the sport and resource.

In cooperation with the states we advocate the judicious use of the following regulatory measures:

The time and length of the hunting season should meet the biological needs of the species and conform to the period of best physical condition, and be as long as management objectives will permit to increase recreational opportunity and avoid crowded hunting and over-shooting of accessible areas.

Bag limits should meet the needs of good herd management and the need of distribution of hunting privileges on

public lands. The buck law is advocated only where areas are understocked. The larger antlered males appeal to the hunter, but the taking only of prize animals may have serious biological consequences, and the taking of males only does not reduce the breeding potential of the herd nor fully utilize the crop.

Predacious species should be controlled but not exterminated.

Game refuges have generally been too large and unwieldy and without provisions for versatile management, permitting over-population and self-destruction. Game does not overflow appreciably to restock adjacent lands.

Often all species are protected where only one or two should have been. Once established refuges have been regarded as inviolate and not subject to management and they were often poorly located with regard to the needs for game or the needs for protection.

We favor protection of rare and seriously depleted species, closed areas strategically located to meet local protection needs, a flexible system whereby the refuge can be readily abolished or the restrictions altered.

The Forest Service policy on lands under its management will be to encourage the establishment of management and demonstration areas in preference to refuges and to discourage the indiscriminate establishment of new refuges; encourage the elimination of unsatisfactory refuges and a reduction of those which are too large; the opening of overstocked refuges; and working toward the needed protection of wildlife species without resort to extensive sanctuary or refuge systems.

Big game and livestock can and do occupy very satisfactorily the same range when both are properly managed and controlled and kept well within the carrying capacity of the range for both uses. Both the livestock man and the sportsman are sometimes inclined to insist that the last blade of grass be taken and the last aspen leaf eaten. Both livestock and game under such an approach are quickly jeopardized and their natural environments reduced to a condition that is most difficult, if not impossible to correct. Many barn doors are locked too late.

Winter range or lack of it is controlling on many national forest and other land ownerships; particularly in the West. Conditions on national forests and purchase units east of the Mississippi provide a better balanced year-round environment. In determining the extent to which livestock should be curtailed on certain areas to favor big game, the effects, especially on local dependent communities and populations must be carefully weighed. Degrees and priorities of use by wildlife or domestic stock become a matter of intelligent land use planning, the different interests participating in an open minded manner.

Greetings From Australian Grower

Opal Downs, Walgett
11th January 1940

National Wool Growers Association
America

Dear Sirs:

Cheque for £1 Australian enclosed for subscription (to the National Wool Grower). In renewing my subscription, I would add, as an Australian grower of Merino wool, I have found your paper highly interesting, and always look forward to receiving the edition.

In passing I would compliment your association on the way you handle your wool-minded politicians; they are a ton of strength to you.

There is one request I will make, deal considerably with Australian wool growers. We do not want to undercut your market. Wool growers here are endeavoring to get as high a price as possible, and are pleased to see you getting firmer prices as a result of our fine action to the British government. Our politicians put interests before prices, and forget all about rising costs of American petrols and oils to Australian users.

I send my best greetings to you fellows in wool growing across the lake.

Yours faithfully,
George W. Cox

Sheepmen's Big Game Problems

At the conclusion of Dr. Shantz's address at the National Convention in Casper, Wyoming, January 25, 1940, the big game question was thrown open for discussion. The points brought out covered so many of the stockmen's problems in connection with big game that the entire discussion is printed here for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the convention.

CHAIRMAN MERLE L. DRAKE of Idaho (presiding for President Rich who was detained in a committee meeting.): I notice on your program that we have an entry here "Discussion," under the subject which has just been presented to you. I think probably a very fine approach to this discussion would be to grant any one here the privilege of asking Dr. Shantz any question that may not have been cleared up by him, or, rather, any questions you would like to ask.

GUY STAMBAUGH (Montana): I would like to ask, sir, how the game can be controlled in the national forests when the State Game Department claims control and ownership of all the game?

DR. SHANTZ: That is like so many other problems where two agencies have to work together to accomplish the desired result, and where it sometimes is impossible to get them together for a number of years. The Forest Service has the right by law to go in and kill the excess numbers of big game on national forests when they are damaging the range or the forests. But you can see for yourself how difficult a matter that is. I think as far as federal agencies are concerned, the Forest Service stands as that agency which is attempting to have its crop harvested only by hunting, fishing and trapping. We don't slaughter animals to get them out of the way, and if we had to kill animals on the game range the numbers are generally so great that the practical difficulties are almost too great to be overcome. On the Kaibab, for instance, we killed 1500 deer, but 1500 out of a population that might have ranged from 50,000 to 150,000 played no part in that program. The reduction was the result of starvation when practically one deer of every ten die.

That brings up a problem which I wish we had time to discuss. To a certain extent the local communities have the responsibility for seeing that their state fish and game departments are set up in such a way that they can handle the problem and that they are sufficiently backed by the local communities to enable them to enter into agreements with us to control the herds on these overstocked areas.

F. R. MARSHALL: This is a group of sportsmen here and everything is in the open; if you have anything to discuss with Dr. Shantz here, now is your opportunity. Is it entirely a matter of cooperation be-

tween the stockmen and sportsmen before you can go to the bat?

DR. SHANTZ: At the present time, the Forest Service policy is to cooperate with the states in all matters relating to big game except on certain areas where the control of the areas has been assigned by the state and federal government to the Forest Service. There are only very small areas in the United States where that is the case.

To discuss the matter of whether or not the Forest Service has the control of game numbers would probably keep us busy for another week. We believe at the present time that with the gains that are being made in a better understanding of the big game problems and the importance of big game in connection with the general economy and welfare of the different areas, we are going to bring about a very good management program by the cooperative approach, and the Forest Service at the present time has no intention of going beyond that approach. We pledge ourselves to push that approach just as far as it is possible and I think we are getting good cooperation from the states.

MR. STAMBAUGH: You say the Forest Service has the right to kill the excess game on the range where they are destroying the range. Have I the right to kill big game where they are eating up my haystacks?

DR. SHANTZ: Personally, I believe you have; I don't think anybody will ever take that right away from you entirely. On the other hand, I am not a lawyer and don't want to get into a legal discussion here. I can't see any possibility in the United States of disallowing a man the right to protect his own property from destruction. I think there are two cases in court now, one in Montana and one in Idaho, touching that problem.

But the right to kill is unsatisfactory even from your point of view. Most of you don't want to go out and shoot an elk to protect your hay; you would rather have a reasonable approach on the part of the State Game and Fish Department and the Forest Service, a suitable adjustment so they won't damage adjacent property. In some ways the Forest Service might take the position that since the animals are down off the forest it is not our responsibility, but we believe if we are producing more elk on the summer range than can be supported on the winter range, it is our responsibility to bring that elk herd down to the balance of its winter range.

J. A. HOOPER (Utah): Mr. Shantz, you mentioned the fact of economics. Many of our livestock states where we have big game are rapidly approaching a point where the resources and wealth of certain areas are being jeopardized by increasing game. Is it the function of the Forest Department, or do they intend to take into consideration the necessity of the protection of great wealth, and where there is a conflict between the big game and the livestock, is there any tendency to go to work and find out the maximum number that the wealth of that particular area can support in the way of big game?

DR. SHANTZ: It would be our policy to allow the local communities to determine which is the better use of their area and to balance, if possible, the big game herds with other use.

I don't like to single out the Utah situation exactly, but I think Utah has one of the very difficult problems in the United States to solve on the matter of big game and domestic livestock and it has been tremendously difficult for them to put over the control of big game. It is only last year that does have been killed in Utah. They have been killing cow elk, but the deer herds are still not well controlled in Utah, and they are raising too many deer for the good of their livestock industry in Utah. They are raising more deer than they need from the sportsmen's point of view, but it is sometimes difficult to convince the sportsmen there are too many deer on the range.

M. MONCREIFFE (Wyoming): Have you any statistics on the number of deer or elk that winter in the forest reserve after the stock or sheep or cattle are taken out? Up in Wyoming, I know the game conditions fairly well. During the winter period I have never known the deer or elk to stay out on the high forest ranges, the forest reserve ranges, much after the sheep come down. On my range there are lots of deer, lots of elk, and plenty of food, both for the stock permitted at the present time by the Forest Service, and all the game that is up there. After the snow comes down, all the stock comes down; they can't live in about five or six feet of snow; they come down on the lower ranges and they stay there. People are permitted to shoot deer there. Besides shooting deer, they shoot a few of our cows and cattle. These deer eat quite a lot of feed. Of course, I think the state should recompense the stockmen for the amount of hay or whatever they eat. The stockmen have just barely enough feed to carry through a hard winter and to have a portion of that eaten by game makes it pretty difficult on the individual, just for recreation for the men who shoot. They

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George W. Cox

Sheepmen's Big Game Problems

At the conclusion of Dr. Shantz's address at the National Convention in Casper, Wyoming, January 25, 1940, the big game question was thrown open for discussion. The points brought out covered so many of the stockmen's problems in connection with big game that the entire discussion is printed here for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the convention.

CHAIRMAN MERLE L. DRAKE of Idaho (presiding for President Rich who was detained in a committee meeting.): I notice on your program that we have an entry here "Discussion," under the subject which has just been presented to you. I think probably a very fine approach to this discussion would be to grant any one here the privilege of asking Dr. Shantz any question that may not have been cleared up by him, or, rather, any questions you would like to ask.

GUY STAMBAUGH (Montana): I would like to ask, sir, how the game can be controlled in the national forests when the State Game Department claims control and ownership of all the game?

DR. SHANTZ: That is like so many other problems where two agencies have to work together to accomplish the desired result, and where it sometimes is impossible to get them together for a number of years. The Forest Service has the right by law to go in and kill the excess numbers of big game on national forests when they are damaging the range or the forests. But you can see for yourself how difficult a matter that is. I think as far as federal agencies are concerned, the Forest Service stands as that agency which is attempting to have its crop harvested only by hunting, fishing and trapping. We don't slaughter animals to get them out of the way, and if we had to kill animals on the game range the numbers are generally so great that the practical difficulties are almost too great to be overcome. On the Kaibab, for instance, we killed 1500 deer, but 1500 out of a population that might have ranged from 50,000 to 150,000 played no part in that program. The reduction was the result of starvation when practically one deer of every ten die.

That brings up a problem which I wish we had time to discuss. To a certain extent the local communities have the responsibility for seeing that their state fish and game departments are set up in such a way that they can handle the problem and that they are sufficiently backed by the local communities to enable them to enter into agreements with us to control the herds on these overstocked areas.

F. R. MARSHALL: This is a group of sportsmen here and everything is in the open; if you have anything to discuss with Dr. Shantz here, now is your opportunity. Is it entirely a matter of cooperation be-

tween the stockmen and sportsmen before you can go to the bat?

DR. SHANTZ: At the present time, the Forest Service policy is to cooperate with the states in all matters relating to big game except on certain areas where the control of the areas has been assigned by the state and federal government to the Forest Service. There are only very small areas in the United States where that is the case.

To discuss the matter of whether or not the Forest Service has the control of game numbers would probably keep us busy for another week. We believe at the present time that with the gains that are being made in a better understanding of the big game problems and the importance of big game in connection with the general economy and welfare of the different areas, we are going to bring about a very good management program by the cooperative approach, and the Forest Service at the present time has no intention of going beyond that approach. We pledge ourselves to push that approach just as far as it is possible and I think we are getting good cooperation from the states.

MR. STAMBAUGH: You say the Forest Service has the right to kill the excess game on the range where they are destroying the range. Have I the right to kill big game where they are eating up my haystacks?

DR. SHANTZ: Personally, I believe you have; I don't think anybody will ever take that right away from you entirely. On the other hand, I am not a lawyer and don't want to get into a legal discussion here. I can't see any possibility in the United States of disallowing a man the right to protect his own property from destruction. I think there are two cases in court now, one in Montana and one in Idaho, touching that problem.

But the right to kill is unsatisfactory even from your point of view. Most of you don't want to go out and shoot an elk to protect your hay; you would rather have a reasonable approach on the part of the State Game and Fish Department and the Forest Service, a suitable adjustment so they won't damage adjacent property. In some ways the Forest Service might take the position that since the animals are down off the forest it is not our responsibility, but we believe if we are producing more elk on the summer range than can be supported on the winter range, it is our responsibility to bring that elk herd down to the balance of its winter range.

J. A. HOOPER (Utah): Mr. Shantz, you mentioned the fact of economics. Many of our livestock states where we have big game are rapidly approaching a point where the resources and wealth of certain areas are being jeopardized by increasing game. Is it the function of the Forest Department, or do they intend to take into consideration the necessity of the protection of great wealth, and where there is a conflict between the big game and the livestock, is there any tendency to go to work and find out the maximum number that the wealth of that particular area can support in the way of big game?

DR. SHANTZ: It would be our policy to allow the local communities to determine which is the better use of their area and to balance, if possible, the big game herds with other use.

I don't like to single out the Utah situation exactly, but I think Utah has one of the very difficult problems in the United States to solve on the matter of big game and domestic livestock and it has been tremendously difficult for them to put over the control of big game. It is only last year that does have been killed in Utah. They have been killing cow elk, but the deer herds are still not well controlled in Utah, and they are raising too many deer for the good of their livestock industry in Utah. They are raising more deer than they need from the sportsmen's point of view, but it is sometimes difficult to convince the sportsmen there are too many deer on the range.

M. MONCREIFFE (Wyoming): Have you any statistics on the number of deer or elk that winter in the forest reserve after the stock or sheep or cattle are taken out? Up in Wyoming, I know the game conditions fairly well. During the winter period I have never known the deer or elk to stay out on the high forest ranges, the forest reserve ranges, much after the sheep come down. On my range there are lots of deer, lots of elk, and plenty of food, both for the stock permitted at the present time by the Forest Service, and all the game that is up there. After the snow comes down, all the stock comes down; they can't live in about five or six feet of snow; they come down on the lower ranges and they stay there. People are permitted to shoot deer there. Besides shooting deer, they shoot a few of our cows and cattle. These deer eat quite a lot of feed. Of course, I think the state should recompense the stockmen for the amount of hay or whatever they eat. The stockmen have just barely enough feed to carry through a hard winter and to have a portion of that eaten by game makes it pretty difficult on the individual, just for recreation for the men who shoot. They

never contribute towards the feeding of the stock in the winter.

Have you statistics on the amount of deer that will stay up in the high ranges during the winter?

DR. SHANTZ: That depends, of course, entirely upon the particular high country we are talking about. They probably follow down pretty closely after your livestock. There are places farther south where the deer stay pretty well back during the winter period. I think we know pretty well how many deer stay back on the ranges in the winter but they are not many, unless it happens to be a very open winter; even in an open winter they come down. I am not sure I understand exactly what you wanted me to answer.

MR. MONCREIFFE: You stated or rather inferred that possibly there might be less stock kept up in the forest reserve to make room for the deer and game. * * *

DR. SHANTZ: If I understand you correctly, I didn't mean to infer that. If I did say so, I didn't intend to, and didn't intend to intimate that on our summer range we ought to reduce our livestock in the interest of deer or elk. If we were to take all the livestock off the summer ranges we wouldn't be able to increase our deer or elk, because they are limited by the winter range. It is pretty largely on your lands rather than ours that we have to limit the deer and elk, and therefore we believe we should not have a greater number of animals on our summer range than can find feed properly on the winter range areas, whether they are Forest Service areas, Taylor grazing areas, or private lands which the owners are willing to contribute for the support of the deer and elk herds.

MR. HOOPER: I would like to ask Mr. Shantz if I am correct in my conclusion in regard to his remarks that the proper deer management is the permitting of the hunting of both doe and buck deer?

DR. SHANTZ: After your population has arrived at the full carrying capacity of the range, the only possible way of maintaining the herd at the carrying capacity of the range is by killing the females. You can't possibly keep a deer herd down by just killing the bucks unless you kill so many that you actually exterminate the buck population, then you would ultimately exterminate your herd. Pennsylvania has had a lot of experience and they are throwing open their season at times for the killing of only fawns and does. And a very significant thing has come out: that on those areas where the deer have been starved, to some extent, where the feed is short, they found as many as two or three times as many females born as males. Nature, in a way, steps in and increases the production of does when they should be reduced in number. Where you have a sparse population, then it is another matter.

W. C. OSBORN (Colorado): It has been our observation that the Forest Service in its

administration has been more open to suggestions from the wildlife agencies than they have to the agents of the stockmen. Isn't it the duty of the Forest Service in administering this wildlife to bring the interests of the stockmen more to the attention of these fellows who get the benefit of this wildlife and get them to back up the stockmen? The Forest Service is charged with the administration of this wildlife and I think it has been brought out very clearly that you could render a service there that would help us to lay the foundation for the cooperative work that you suggest. * * *

The forest administration should take charge of this; it is in a position to bring those different interests together and to put the matter under the right control and management.

FEEDERS' LAMB CAMPAIGN

With the nationwide dissemination of information about lamb through all the channels available to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the annual lamb promotion program of the Colorado and Nebraska Feeders Association was running at full steam at the end of February.

A new and interesting lamb recipe folder is to reach 750,00 housewives during the campaign and colorful streamers in sets of six are being displayed in many thousands of retail shops. Cooking schools and schools for dealers are also being held in 28 or more states, and lamb copy, with valuable information on lamb, its use and preparation, is reaching and is being used by newspapers over the country, and the same is true of radio stations.

DR. SHANTZ: I didn't get a definite question out of that. I didn't hear very well. Of course you know that in an association such you have here all of you don't think exactly alike on your own problems. We have a lot of forest men who probably don't all think alike either, and we have come up to this overpopulation of game with such rapidity here in the West that most people in the United States have no conception that we have enough game. Of course, we have certain places in the forests where that is not the case; we have lots of forest land that has a very sparse wildlife population.

I think on the whole you will find that the Forest Service has been rather free to suggest that it was time to make reductions in these herds of big game animals. The immediate reaction of the public was: "You are simply trying to protect your forests," and they are trying to protect the animals which we think must be controlled. The only way to protect the deer and elk is to control the numbers, we can't let those numbers pile up. I appreciate what the last speaker said, we have got to control our big game the same as domestic livestock. Raising deer and elk is pretty much a matter of animal husbandry. The man who

ought to approach that question with best information is the stockman himself, yet there are a good many who still have the feeling that after all the deer and elk probably can take care of themselves, or that they won't increase too much, or will wander off and get feed some other place if they don't find it where they are.

We have a difficult problem in managing big game. I don't see how we are going to bring about an equitable distribution other than by killing them when too abundant and protecting them when not abundant. So if we were not interested at all in the livestock we would still have to take that attitude with respect to game. But we are interested in using the lands as they should be used locally. These problems are not nationwide problems or statewide problems—they are local. It is impossible to control the big game in your region by a state law. You have to give that control to the State Game Department, so they can open this watershed, and close that, so they can deal with local problems as they come up.

MR. OSBORN: You say we have got to control it; how are we going to do it? We have been talking about it here for the last fifteen or twenty years. How are we going to do it? There has got to be a foundation. That is what we are here for. When are we going to do this job of bringing this stuff under control?

DR. SHANTZ: At the present time if the game animals are too abundant on the area on which they are located, there would be possibly two ways of reducing them; one would be to secure favorable action by the State Fish and Game Commission. The Fish and Game Commission is pretty susceptible to the proper presentation of local conditions. If it was on national forest land, we believe the best means of control there would be to take the matter up with the Fish and Game Commission and try to get them to bring down the number by an open season to reduce the number of animals. Only in very extreme cases would we feel we should go in there and actually kill animals on the land. I can't help but feel that that is probably the right of a private land owner and it may have to be used once in a while to bring the public agency to a better realization of how far the case has gone, but it is a method which we, at least, would like to avoid entirely. I believe with a better setup of fish and game commissions that we are going to be able to control our populations of game animals. I would think one of the most important things you could do is to see that your fish and game commissions are actually working commissions and not temporarily politically appointed commissions that occasionally know little about the problems. There are not many cases where that is the case but once in a while it happens; then we have difficulty with our game problems.

MR. HOOPER: Does the Forest Service subscribe to the policy of hauling deer from

one area to another area that is already fully stocked with livestock?

DR. SHANTZ: We have done very little planting in the western part of the United States. In the East we are attempting to restock a lot of forests which have lost their deer entirely. Many of the states in the East have lost their deer entirely and they are anxious for replanting. In the West there has been comparatively little transferring of deer from one place to another. That has been done largely by the State Game Departments and probably instigated largely by local groups. No, we are not anxious to overstock any areas. Of course we do believe this, as I think you know, that deer and cattle don't compete very directly. I have seen deer lying dead in Utah on the ranges where the grama grass is up to your knees and where the cow would grow fat, but there would be nothing for the deer to eat. The sheep very seldom eat juniper and juniper is eaten by deer to a very great extent, and yet if we had a small number of big game animals, even on a relatively heavily stocked livestock range, it probably would not cut down much on the carrying capacity of the domestic livestock. It is when we get great numbers of either that our difficulty comes.

MR. HOOPER: Very small numbers increase to great numbers.

DR. SHANTZ: Yes, and they grow pretty fast.

MR. SULLIVAN: I want to say that to get such men as this man, here, who seems to be open on both sides of the question to discuss this matter, is a great privilege. Usually national problems are answered by the populace's understanding what the problem is. May I ask, Doctor, what steps are being taken by your service to inform the public of the very sane attitude you are taking and of the information you are giving us?

DR. SHANTZ: We are doing everything we can. Of course our men are working locally with the local communities and are trying to present the facts in such a way that they can be understood. I think most of our men belong to the local game associations. I think it is a tremendously important thing from this wildlife point of view that you men who are in the cattle and sheep business should take an active part in the sportsmen's organizations and help to bring to them some knowledge of these conditions, and also to get their point of view.

It is a difficult thing to tell the truth about some of these things under certain circumstances. I will give you an example. In the East I have a good many opportunities to talk with people who know little about the West but who have made up their minds about it and I often make the statement that we can really pull our range back a little better by having it used by sheep than by cattle because the sheep are West are likely to be sheep ranges. When

I make a statement like that east of the Mississippi, I have to duck under the table right then because they have an idea, probably dating back to that old war between the sheep and cattlemen, that the sheep is the most destructive animal on the range. It would be an eye-opener to some of those people to go over our mountain sheep ranges and see them as they are. You can hardly blame people who have that opinion because it is usually not based on any knowledge of facts. It is almost impossible to bring to the eastern people any appreciation of the situation here in the West but we are doing everything we can to bring about a better understanding. It was almost impossible four or five years ago to get up and say anything about the buck so much easier to manage on the range and that our best looking ranges in the law but now you can discuss the buck law almost any place in the United States.

If we are going to have a reasonable approach to the use of these lands each one of us must give in a certain amount to form a good rational policy. I am sure the stockmen of the West, of their own grass and hay, are contributing more to the support of our big game population than all of the others who are talking about it contribute in dollars. The great support that is coming to the western game herds is coming from you men and yet you are being attacked in the East on the basis that you are utilizing the range higher up in the mountains.

If we take every domestic animal off of the national forests at the present time, it would not appreciably affect our big game proposition. There are places where we have so many big game animals that they are cutting down on your privately owned feed and those conditions should be corrected.

CHAIRMAN DRAKE: Thank you, Dr. Shantz.

Shows and Professors

A COLLEGE professor who was also a preacher once told me how a fly darted into his open mouth in the midst of a flight of oratory and theology before his congregation. He was reviewing the discomfiting experience to convince me that a man can think of many things at the same time and effectively—what to do, what not to do, how to get away with the situation, results, speed, behavior!

How often in the intervening thirty-five years have I prayed that flies would dart into the open mouths of professors! In this part of the country we have Master Farmer awards—but farmers themselves are not trusted to do the awarding! Professors, editors

and the like of them have fabricated a complicated score card and sit in committee to administer the awards and designate the so-called master farmers.

If a man "makes" a cattle feeders' tour, he is bound to find the speaker of the day a professor, a gentleman who lives smilingly from day to day and from year to year on a salary. Suppose you attend a lamb feeders' banquet, why lo and behold, the speaker will not be a lamb feeder, toughened by the experience of feeding lambs, but some professor. A swine day or a sausage fry could hardly be pulled off without a professor to do the "speaking." The monkey's tail has been going round and round and round this way for decades!

Possibly in this capacity these professors don't do so very much mischief. I contend they do more mischief in the show ring as judges and in their "aiding and abetting" of livestock types that the farmer may not be in sympathy with. My memory goes back well up above forty years and I just can't go out and find the lusty, strong-growing rams we used to find. Go to the State Fair and you will find many and many a registered lamb hardly half the size of what you may want by that date and what you may even have at home if you have stayed a "hard-billed" old timer in buying your rams.

As recently as thirty-five years ago scouts from the range states thought enough of the kind of mutton rams hereabouts to come East and buy them up to ship West—to use the dog fancier's apt term, sheep had not yet fallen victim of the "bench show" ideas they labor under today. It is kinda humorous to hear a so-called breeder explaining and apologizing why the ram lamb or the yearling ram of these quick-maturing, refined and typey breeds standing before you when you want to buy—why the typey critters just haven't matured to the stage where you feel warranted in buying any of them!

Why can't somebody train big cow flies to buzz into the open mouths of professors and compel them to think of more things at the same time so we farmers can find suitable rams to sire robust, fast-growing lambs like we used to raise!

Radnor, I.

G. P. Williams

Rearing Foals and Lambs by the Use of Colostrum, Blood Serum and Substitute Milks

By J. A. Gamble, I. P. Earle and Paul E. Howe

A review, written from the sheepman's point of view. Statements in parentheses are those of the reviewer, not the authors.

(The first "milk" produced by any milk-producing female after her young is born is called "colostrum." The word is pronounced co/los/trum, the co to rhyme with "go," and los as if it were "loss." The accent is on the second syllable. Colostrum is produced only the first two, three, or four days after the young is born; after that the female produces milk. This explains why we must wait several days after a calf is born before its mother's milk is used for household purposes.)

COLOSTRUM differs greatly from milk. It has seven to eight times as much total protein and is richer in antibodies. (Antibodies are substances found in body fluids that have a restrictive or destructive action on bacteria.) Colostrum is even richer in antibodies than the blood serum of the same species of animal, although this concentration of antibodies in colostrum diminishes rapidly the first few hours after the young is born.

The value of colostrum for nourishing the new born animal has been long realized. Its benefits are attributed to a high concentration of nutrients in a form most easily used by the young. It is 10 to 100 times richer in vitamin A than milk, a fact of great importance because the body of the new born animal is very low in vitamin A. Thus it serves not only as a valuable source of nourishment but through the antibodies present it tends to immunize the young against certain diseases. In one experiment cited by the authors, nine out of twelve calves deprived of colostrum died of disease while all of the "control" calves that got colostrum lived. In many cases bacteria that are potent enough to kill the very young are harmless to older animals and this makes it all the more important for the young

to get colostrum or a suitable substitute.

No completely satisfactory substitute has been found for colostrum, although partial success has come from feeding blood serum (the thin, straw-colored fluid in the blood) from the same species of animal. Blood serum also contains antibodies and gives a "passive" (mild or temporary) resistance to disease.

No mammal (mammals include all animals that nurse their young) can do entirely without milk and milk from the

same species is better for the young than milk from any other species. When a substitution is made (for example, raising a bum lamb on cow's milk) the earlier the substitution is made the more unfavorable the results. This is undoubtedly due to the difference in composition of the milk of various species, but not necessarily to differences in the fat content.

In comparison with cow's milk, the milk of the ewe is very high in total solids (non-liquid portion) but the amount of these solids varies greatly with the stage of lactation (milk giving). It was found that the fat content of the milk of 108 ewes varied from 2.4 per cent to 12.1 per cent. Growth rate of the lambs out of these ewes was not associated with the percentage of milk fat.

The authors fed 68 lambs of various breeds in 7 lots. The following table shows how each group was treated and the approximate results:

Group	Treatment	No. of lambs	Results
1	Fresh milk in place of colostrum for first 3 to 4 days after lamb was dropped. Then allowed to suckle mothers whose colostrum had been milked out by hand.	7	5 out of 7 died of a lung infection and 4 out of 5 dead ones also showed pericarditis.
2	Dried cow's milk from birth.	12	5 died, 4 of them 8 to 18 days of age and 1 at 5 weeks. Survivors made good growth, averaging 3.4 lbs. per week for 16 weeks.
3	Cow's colostrum, fresh or dried in place of ewe's colostrum. 2 got dried cow's milk 1 to 2 days before receiving colostrum. 4 were allowed to go back to their mothers; the remaining 7 got dried whole cow's milk, 20 parts to 80 parts of water.	11	4 of these 11 were allowed to suckle dams after getting cow's colostrum and they survived. Of the other 7 that got dried milk 3 died of acute nephritis (kidney trouble) while the rest did well.
4	Sheep serum and dried cow's milk for first 24 hours; dried cow's milk thereafter. Compare this group with group 2 which received no serum.	7	2 died during first 2 weeks. The rest did fairly well. Mortality rate lower than group 2, apparently due to feeding sheep serum.
5	Colostrum from their own mothers 6 to 48 hours after birth, then fed dried whole cow's milk.	11	10 out of 11 lived and were in excellent condition throughout the 16 weeks of the experiment. Ewe's colostrum apparently better than sheep serum.
6	Colostrum from their own mothers. Then fed dried skim milk. Compare with group 5.	11	All lived 3 weeks or more but 6 died after 4th week. Of the 5 survivors, 3 made good growth but all 5 had frequent diarrhea.
7	Colostrum from their mothers, then dried skim milk plus codliver oil. 5 of the 9 got in addition some iron, copper, and tomato juice.	9	4 out of 5 getting iron, copper and tomato juice died within 3 weeks, the fifth in 3 months. The other 4 made fairly good gains.

The authors conclude, since the experiment with lambs gave results similar to those obtained from foals, "that lambs as well as foals need homologous colostrum or its substitute." (Homologous means it came from the same kind of animal.) "In the feeding of lambs, sheep serum appears to be at least a partly successful substitute for colostrum. The experiments also indicate that lambs and foals grow well on a mixture of dried whole cow's milk and water fed in place of the milk of the dam."

(The reviewer would like to add his own opinion that this technical bulletin has a lot of practical information of value to those growers who want to save every possible lamb, and to those who raise bidders. If a new born lamb that has lost its mother can be allowed to suck the colostrum from one side of the udder of another ewe that has just lambed, its chances of surviving should be better, especially if it is to be subsequently fed on the bottle. Sheep blood serum is not available to the general public, and until it becomes so, the data presented by the authors concerning it can have little practical application to farm sheep production. Dried whole milk powder is available, however, and under ordinary conditions is probably more sanitary than most whole fresh milk. The mixture of 20 per cent powder to 80 per cent water is easy to make and the powder can be kept for long periods of time. It may also be obtained at all seasons of the year, even when the family cow is dry.

(Under range conditions a dead lamb is often skinned and its pelt hung on a living orphan. If the skinned lamb was a week or more old when it died colostrum would not be produced by the ewe. If therefore a new born orphan is to be given her, it looks as though the orphan's chances would be a good deal better if it could be allowed at least one or two feedings of colostrum from other ewes before transferred to the ewe that has lost an older lamb. Such a practice would be difficult where open lambing is followed but might occasionally be very practical where shed lambing is practiced.)

J. F. W.

New Mexico Convention

MEMBERS, visitors and newspapers agreed that the 37th annual convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association in Albuquerque, February 8 and 9, was the most successful meeting in the history of the state's oldest organization of livestock men. The convention, held in the Hilton Hotel, was outstanding because of a record breaking attendance, the state's first annual wool show, and the outlining by the association of an aggressive program for the development of the sheep growing industry.

Floyd W. Lee, San Mateo, for thirteen years president of the association, was reelected to serve his fourteenth term by an unanimous rising vote of the convention. D. M. Martinez, Roy, president of the State Sheep Sanitary Board, was reelected vice president. Miss Isabel Benson, Albuquerque, was continued in her position as secretary at an executive meeting following the convention.

New members added to the executive committee of 75 include Albert G. Simms, Albuquerque; Dan Kelley, Santa Fe; J. P. Cassabone, Hope; Jess Corn, Roswell; W. H. Corn, Roswell; John Leatherwood, Shoemaker; J. W. Gist and A. T. McDannald, Magdalena; August Seis, Albuquerque; Vincente del Cuerto, Socorro; J. L. York, Albuquerque; Monico Mirabal, San Rafael; John U. Hinde, Wagon Mound. The executive board membership is representative of all activities of the sheep industry in New Mexico.

Convention Action

Resolutions adopted by the wool growers' convention, in so far as they related to national issues, followed closely the program outlined by the National Wool Growers Association at its annual convention in Casper. The resolution protesting against "all reciprocal trade treaties" was especially vigorous, with its declaration that the treaty with Great Britain has "resulted in lowering the value of domestic wools comparable to importations by approximately 22 per cent of the clean content of domestic wool as compared with the British imported wool."

The association approved the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry's recommendation of "Kalodip, a non-poisonous fused bentonine-sulphur dip," recognized in the bureau's report as "effective as a one dipping treatment for sheep."

All pending legislation before the Congress tending to increase railroad operating costs, such as the hours of service, car limit, full crew and similar bills, was condemned. Repeal of the long-and-short haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act was asked, as was enactment of legislation to place all competitive transportation systems under like regulations "in so far as feasible," with special request that coastwise, river and lake transportation be placed under the Interstate Commerce Commission's regulatory power. Any increase in freight rates in general and in feeder livestock rates in particular was opposed.

The Congress was asked to investigate the establishment of Taylor Grazing Act District No. 7 and the special rules promulgated by the Interior Department's Division of Grazing for issuance of permits and government of the new district in northwestern New Mexico. The creation of the district and the special rules were declared to be "contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Taylor Grazing Act amendment, approved July 14, 1939."

Early issuance of individual allotments under the Taylor Act, "for a period of not less than 10 years," was asked as a measure for stabilization of the livestock industry.

Special taxes "that will limit the outlet of our product" were opposed.

A special resolution opposed "the levying of special federal taxes on livestock or livestock products for the purpose of carrying out a soil conservation program, regardless of whether such taxes are known as processing taxes or taxes collected under the new income certificate plan."

State legislation to permit the land commissioner to extend state land purchase contract, within his discretion, was requested.

The federal government was asked to

return 50 per cent of all fees collected by the national parks and monuments or any other federal agency to the state "in lieu of taxation." Strong opposition was expressed to withdrawals of grazing land by federal departments without consent of the state legislature.

The report of the forest grazing committee opposed "all efforts to consolidate the United States Forest Service or any of its functions with the Grazing Service, either under the supervision of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture." This committee also recommended appointment of a committee of five to work for amendment of the law governing the Forest Service so as to "provide for the recognition of grazing as one of the major purposes of the act." It also approved Senate bill 3217 to provide for boards of local stockmen to advise and make recommendations regarding administration of grazing lands within the national forests.

The Committee on Predatory Animals devoted much of its lengthy report to disapproval of the state game department's protection of predatory bears. The result of the resolution was appointment of a committee to confer with the State Game and Fish Commission on that matter and on all other matters affecting the livestock industry.

The Committee on Lamb Marketing recommended that "all lamb producers, through their sales agents, demand that lambs be purchased on a quality and dressing percentage basis and that the practice of 'one price alley buying' be discontinued."

Speakers

Featured speakers included F. R. Carpenter, Hayden, Colorado, who organized the original grazing districts under the Taylor Act; C. J. Fawcett, general manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation; C. B. Wardlaw, newly elected president of the National Wool Growers Association; Albert K. Mitchell and Max O. Cullen of the National Livestock and Meat Board and Colonel Edward N. Wentworth, Chicago, head of Armour's Livestock Bureau, whose address on sheep history in the Southwest was of unusual interest.

Col. Wentworth also presided at the

annual dinner dance on the evening of February 8. Tom Snell and L. A. McCrea managed the noon-day barbecue at El Fidel Hotel at which more than 350 ate barbecued lamb as guests of the association.

Con. W. Jackson, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, A. D. Brownfield, D. M. Martinez and P. E. Neale, professor of sheep husbandry at State College, were other speakers in a program that moved smoothly and held attention of delegates, and attendance at open sessions probably as no other convention of the association has done.

Wool Show

The state's first wool show was pronounced by competent judges to be one of the most comprehensive and instructive exhibits of its class in the records of western wool production. It illustrated vividly the progress that has been made in the character of New Mexico fleeces and was voted by the convention to become an annual feature of the state conventions, supplementing the annual New Mexico ram sale, which is generally conceded to be one of the most valuable of the institutions at work for the improvement of the industry.

Inaugurated by the association as a competitive display of New Mexico fleeces, for cash prizes, and placed in charge of George F. Ellis, extension animal husbandman, State Agricultural College, it was expanded by Mr. Ellis to include the huge display of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, Boston; the photographic display of the Associated Wool Industries; the fine showing of mohair and mohair products by Robert W. Reid, nationally known breeder of registered Angora goats; the exhibit of the U. S. Wool Experimental Laboratory at Fort Wingate, and the products of New Mexico weavers, made of New Mexico wools and rapidly gaining a place in both national and international retail trade in ties, woolen fabrics, etc. Perhaps the most instructive display was that of the State Agricultural College testing plant which showed samples of wools in both the grease and clean state with diagrams of the wools produced both from various grades of sheep and under the varying conditions of the New Mexico range.

Is This Reciprocity?

HENRY WALLACE and Secretary Hull have had a lot to say about our reciprocal trade agreement with Canada, but they are not telling our farmers what Canada is doing. In all normal seasons, the prices of hogs and hog products are much higher in the United States than in Canada. Canada has always wanted free entrance into our markets, as her freight rate to Detroit and Chicago is lower than most of our rates to the same points. Therefore, in the Reciprocal Trade Treaty of November, 1938, these two great statesmen reduced our duties on live hogs and hog products by about 50 per cent. Canada also reduced her duties against our hogs and pork, but that was of little importance, as the main movement was in the other direction. Then came the war and England and France needed all the pork they could get; prices shot up above ours in Canada.

As war prices for pork advanced in Canada, United States farmers began shipping their hogs to Canada as the treaty provided. Of course Canada had not figured on this when she reduced her duties. She could not raise her duties but she did something more effective: She issued a quarantine order against our live hogs and on February 27 she issued an order limiting the imports from the United States of dressed pork to 1,600,000 pounds a month. In January we had shipped to Canada 9,700,000 pounds of pork,—but that will not happen again.

Of course, this is a clear violation of the spirit of our reciprocity treaty. I wonder if Hull and Wallace have as much concern for our markets and if they will not retaliate by raising the duty on Canadian cattle back to 3 cents.

Also Hull and Wallace reduced the duty on Canadian cheese from 7 cents to 4 cents and under this duty our imports of cheese for 1939 equaled 40 million pounds. Then Canada again violated the treaty and began paying an export bounty of one cent per pound, which reduced the effect of our duty to 3 cents.* I understand that such a protest was made that Secretary Hull and Secretary Wallace were forced to take some action.

S. W. McClure

The Wool Market

A Healthy Market in the Making

IT IS difficult these days to find a quorum on Summer Street through which to do business. Fortune has so smiled upon wool merchants this year that they now have plenty of money in the bank and leisure time to enjoy the sunny shores of the Southland, where a goodly portion are now sojourning. The call of the West will soon bring them trekking back to Boston, for there appears to be a little good business just around the corner in the New York goods market. It will not be long before the idle money now found in the Boston banks will be seeking a new home in exchange for a commodity that still is in extremely short supply. After all of the controversy and discussion over imports, wool is still in short supply. Stocks of apparel wool, even after considering importations, were 27 per cent less than the average February 1 five-year period.

Importation of Australian Wool Made Difficult

It becomes more and more apparent that importation of Australian wool is fraught with many difficulties and uncertainties that are decidedly distasteful to our domestic purchasers. The purchaser of wool controlled by the English government is required to accept the classification and the estimated shrinkage placed by the appraisal government; their decision is final. Our domestic manufacturers usually prefer a little more latitude in selection of type, grade and shrinkage than now is permitted by the English government. It is quite certain that not all of the first 75,000 bales allocated by the English government for United States consumption has been taken. A new element now exists in the wool market that is foreign to our normal situation. Much of the wool that is included in the statistics on imports into this country have been manufactured into tops and exported to Canada, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, and other coun-

tries. The total number of pounds imported, therefore, is rather deceptive, for much of this wool is not and will not be available for domestic use. Possibly one hundred million pounds of apparel wool has been imported during the fall and winter months. Just how much of this has or will be re-exported in the form of tops and yarn is not determinable, but the volume has surely been sufficient to add to the strong statistical position wool now holds. To be sure, February has been almost a blank as far as sales of raw wool are concerned. Many predict it to be the calm before the storm and that good business will be forthcoming in March and April.

Cloth Orders in New York Intentionally Delayed

The best commentators in New York now state that retailers have been coming to the New York market in a happy frame of mind, ready to place orders for cloth, only to have the brokers advise them to go slow, that probably the market has not yet settled to the lowest point. Of course, there is a limit to such a line of argument and indications are not wanting that this pessimistic line of argument has been slightly overplayed. Some are wont to compare the present situation to that of 1937. There are probably few factors common to the two seasons. Importations at that time were greater than at present, we had no European war involving an ever-increasing number of nations as at the present, neither did we have such a sold-up condition as now applies to our domestic wool. Caution, however, prevails to a greater extent than ever before. Manufacturers and merchants are going to watch sharply that they are not overloaded with inventories. In fact, keeping a low inventory is the popular theme of businessmen today. Perhaps this idea is being overworked, for in not a few cases has insufficient inventory added to the cost of the manufacturing process.

Canada Again Applies Tariff

Canada has been a liberal supporter of this market and foreign markets. Recently, however, they have again applied their import tariff which has temporarily eliminated Canada as an outlet. The markets of the world, however (except the Australian clip which is controlled by the British government), have been well cleared. All of the good wool has been picked up in South Africa, and the South American markets are exceptionally well cleared for this time of year. Therefore, our domestic manufacturers have just two sources from which to draw for the next eight to ten months; these are the controlled supply of Australian wool and our domestic clip now being shorn.

Growers Have Opportunity To Make the Market

The growers have it within their power to pitch the 1940 market at foreign importing parity. Seldom has an agricultural commodity occupied such an enviable position so far as supply and demand are concerned as does wool at the present time. There has been very little wool contracted on the sheep's back. The early shorn Arizonas have been moved either on consignment to the National or sold within a grease range of about 24 cents to 30 cents to the grower. This means about 82 cents, clean landed Boston, which is somewhat below foreign importing parity. A decent sort of fine wool from Australia will cost about 94 cents to 95 cents, clean landed Boston, duty paid, and there seems to be more likelihood that the English government will increase rather than decrease values on future deliveries. It is well known that medium wools are usually considered more suitable for military purposes than the finer grades, but, due to the scarcity of these grades, the English government is now experimenting with the use of Australian fine wool as a substitute for medium grades. It is

reported that they are meeting with considerable success. This would seem to augur well for increased values of fine wool. At the present time there seems to be quite a general feeling that peace in Europe is not as near as we had hoped.

Future Trading Less Than Year Ago

There is some wool being sold short for June and July delivery. A limited quantity of Class 3, and good length fine and fine medium original-bag territory, has been sold as low as 82 cents clean landed for July delivery. Today, March 1, Class 5 wool is being offered in large quantities for future delivery at 80 cents clean. The volume of future trading, however, is only a fraction of that transacted a year ago, for some of the short sales proved to be very costly for the sellers and some, we understand, were never fulfilled. The volume of transactions, however, on the top futures is sufficient to go a long way in establishing the price of the clip now being shorn.

We would estimate these current sales to be about 10 to 15 per cent less than foreign importing parity and about 25 per cent less than the September market. There is no law against establishing a market for domestic wool above foreign parity and in one or two periods in the last two years we have secured prices substantially above foreign importing parity, and it is not unlikely that a similar market situation will again occur unless importations are greatly increased. Over a ten-year period, however, 75 per cent of the time our market is pitched considerably below importing parity. Every grower in the United States is entitled to a price for his '40 clip equal to the cost of a comparable grade of foreign wool plus the duty and expense of getting the foreign wool to this country, which in itself is quite an item these days. So long as wool is a deficiency commodity, i.e., so long as we consume more wool than we produce, an efficient method of marketing applied to the whole domestic clip should and would yield just such results to our domestic wool growers. Un-

fortunately there is a sufficient number of growers who are determined to sell the bulk of the clip each year at shearing time to prevent any such price guarantee. Marketing methods employed in Australia, where the clip is very uniform both as to grade and condition, are in striking contrast to those employed in the United States. Practically 100 per cent of the Australian clip, which is two and one-half times greater than the wool clip in the United States, is sold in a graded and sorted state by wool commission merchants who are expert in their respective line. There are 848 sorts or classifications of wool catalogued by the English government from the Australian clip. We, here in the United States, producing wool from almost every known breed of sheep, still attempt to negotiate the sale without grading or classifying and without any accurate knowledge as to foreign importing parity of the particular clip involved. There seems to be a tendency here in the United States toward a decentralized system of marketing, that is, keep the wool at home until someone wants it, while in Australia and every other wool producing country of the world the tendency is just the other way, to centralize the commodity with a view to accessibility to users and a location most convenient to the greatest number of buyers.

Recent Sales

While market reports in Boston quote a very inactive market, there has been a little activity in the West. Dealers are displaying their confidence in the future value of wool by taking some of the better clips at fair prices. Thirty cents has been paid in Montana for quite a number of the better type of clips, while 28½ cents took one reputation clip in the western part of Montana, which is generally conceded to be on the low side of the market. The sales of territory wool from the 1940 clip to date seem to range in the value of 80 to 85 cents, clean landed Boston, whereas, in September we were receiving \$1.05 for similar wool. In last August, before the war, we were receiving about 68 cents clean for the same type.

A little early shorn fleece wool has been moved from the farm states. A few cars of bright quarter and three-eighths have moved from Ohio, Michigan and New York at 35 cents landed at the eastern mill. Similar wools were selling at 45 cents in September and October. A few cars of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana wools have also been sold at 34 to 35 cents landed eastern mill. Notwithstanding inactivity on Summer Street, the whole situation seems to be in a healthy state from wool clearing through to the manufactured products.

C. J. Fawcett

Advance in Steamship Rates on Wool Protested

The United States Maritime Commission, complying with the requests made by the wool growers' organizations and other interested bodies, on March 12 ordered the suspension of the proposed increased steamship rates on wool until a proper hearing and investigation could be made. Such a hearing is scheduled to open in San Francisco on April 2.

VIGOROUS protest has been filed with the United States Maritime Commission by the National Wool Growers and National Wool Trade Associations, the Department of Agriculture, Pacific Wool Growers and the various coast and intermountain state wool growers' organizations and utility commissions against the proposed increase in rates for carrying wool and mohair by steamship from Pacific to Atlantic Coast ports.

The increase, which has been published by the Intercoastal Steamship Freight Association to become effective March 16, 1940, is a uniform one of 25 cents per hundred pounds, or ¼ cent per pound on all wool or mohair, whether in bags or baled, in the grease or scoured state. On wool or mohair in grease, in bags, the rise is from \$1.18 per hundred pounds to \$1.43, or 21.2 per cent; on wool or mohair, scoured, in bags, the rate is advanced from \$2.25 to \$2.50, or 11.2 per cent.

About 59 per cent (74,025,280 pounds in 1939) of the shorn wool produced in Arizona, California, Idaho,

Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington is moved by the intercoastal vessels each year; therefore, the increase, if made effective, will add a total of \$185,063.20 to the costs of wool growers in those eight states.

The steamship companies, it is alleged, claim the advance is necessary because recent sales of vessels have made it obligatory on them to reduce their tonnage, especially of the lower-revenue producing commodities, in which category they place wool, considering its density in relation to present rates.

The protest and application for suspension of the proposed increased rates, filed by the California Wool Growers Association, Nevada Wool Growers Association, California Wool Marketing Association and the San Francisco Wool Trade Association, answers this contention very forcefully:

There are several obvious answers to this argument. In the first place, the carriers should be required to show that they have insufficient vessels for handling the wool which would be shut out of water movement by the proposed increase in rates. We have previously stated that most of the wool moves in the spring and early summer, when the offerings of other cargoes are relatively light. It should be borne in mind that the only wool which would be eliminated would be shorn wool in grease, in bags, which practically all moves during the spring and early summer. The pulled wool and scoured wool would continue to be at the ports for movement at the same time as at present, since it would be drawn to the ports for other reasons, such as meat purposes, or from sources outside the eliminated area. Our analysis of the situation indicates that the intercoastal carriers still need all of the wool that they can obtain in the spring and early summer in order to keep their vessels busy throughout the year.

In the second place, even if the facts were as contended by the carriers, the sale or chartering of vessels by the carriers would not justify an increase in rates. The carriers should certainly be required to attempt to justify a theory of rate making which contemplates that a carrier may increase a rate on the ground that by selling its vessels at a large profit it has incapacitated itself from handling all traffic offered it.

In addition to the special protest of California and Nevada organizations, a similarly strong petition for the suspension of the rates until proper investigation and hearings can be had was

also filed with the Maritime Commission by Counsel Charles E. Blaine for the National Wool Growers Association, the National Wool Trade Association, the state wool growers' associations of Arizona, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, the Pacific Wool Growers, the Utah Wool Marketing Association and the Arizona Corporation Commission. The applications of the growers have also been backed up with requests for suspension and proper hearing made upon the Maritime Commission by the office of the Secretary of Agriculture and by the Transportation Department of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Wool in Fashion's Favor

"MARY has a little lamb whose fleece is making news as it sky-rockets to the top of the fashion hit list," and "Grandma's favorite fabric takes a dominant place in the modern world of fashion." So says "Click," one of the leading pictorial magazines, in its March issue.

Proof of the statements is given pictorially. Here, a good looking girl is shown in a "translucent challis night gown," which combines "style in cut and design with warmth and comfort." There, wool flannelette pajamas, cut like a ski suit, adorn another miss, who has also added to her comfort by

wearing knitted bed socks. And, lo and behold, after all these years, wool has come into its own for formal evening wear; wool sweaters, embroidered in jewels, and worn with soft wool skirts, have been favorites with the younger women this winter. "Click" shows how becoming such a costume is, and while the long evening cloak of wool is not displayed, of course, that is what the young lady wore, for it is the last word in style this year.

But the climax of the entire presentation in "Click" is the picture of the bride in a sheer primrose wool gown, with a wool net veil. "Most startling of the new uses of wool," it says, has been in wedding gowns. Growers will remember that the fashion show put on by the Associated Wool Industries at wool growers' conventions in 1936 culminated in the bridal procession in which the bride was gowned in a golden wool dress. The hope and expectation that wool would take its rightful place with silks and satins to clothe the bride have at last come to pass.

The rapid rise of the wool tie in men's favor is also shown by "Click," and the general use of light weight wool shorts is predicted.

While style experts claim it is hard to put the finger on the cause of the advance of wool to first place in 1940 fashions, it does not seem improbable that, in part at least, it comes as the result of promotional work previously done by the Associated Wool Industries and that now being conducted by the International Wool Secretariat, plus of course the quality and design of modern wool fabrics. Continued efforts should make it possible to keep wool in its proper place, at the top.

WOOL PROMOTION FUND

The fund for promoting wool is being raised by the collection of five cents per bag (3 cents in Texas) by wool dealers for the National Wool Growers Association. Every contract, whether for outright purchase or for consignment, contains this clause:

"It is agreed that consignee will deduct from the net proceeds due the consignor five cents per bag (3 cents in Texas) and will remit said amount to the National Wool Growers Association for wool advertising and promotion. If the consignor is dissatisfied with such deduction, the National Wool Growers Association agrees to refund to the consignor said deduction provided the consignor makes written request therefor to the National Wool Growers Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, within sixty days from the date of receipt by the consignor of the account sales showing such deduction."

The cooperation of every wool grower in agreeing to this deduction is necessary, if the problem of putting and keeping wool in its rightful place, at the top of the textile fibers, is to be solved successfully.

Lamb and Wool Sales

A NEVADA wool clip is reported sold at 29 cents (March 2); also 5,500 Montana fleeces were taken recently at 28½ cents.

Sales of fat spring lambs in Arizona have been made up to 9¼ cents. A few California lambs have been contracted, but the number is very few to date. Feed conditions in California are not good; they have had so much rain that the fresh feed is entirely too watery.

R. W.

Effect of Reciprocal Trade Agreements on the Wool Growing Industry

(Continued from page 9)

have been for a long time, and I do not think it has come up.

MR. MARSHALL. The funny part of it is, Mr. Chairman, that that same language is in effect binding on the United States in the Canadian agreement.

THE CHAIRMAN. Are you afraid of Canada?

MR. MARSHALL. If the State Department has the power to put that into effect with Canada, they have it with respect to Argentina.

SENATOR JOHNSON. In other words, you are not afraid of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate?

MR. MARSHALL. They are our friends.

SENATOR JOHNSON. But you are afraid of the State Department with all of these restrictions all taken off and with the power given to them to extend the making of trade agreements?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes, sir. I said here a moment ago that apparently some lawyers in the State Department considered that import restrictions, in the act of 1934, would permit the President or the Secretary of State to nullify section 306 of the act, and I think the position of the legal staff of the State Department is well shown in the fact that they have written in the trade agreement with Canada, the first agreement, and again in the second one, such language; and my point is, Mr. Chairman, that if they can bind the United States in that in a trade agreement with Canada, they can also bind the United States to the same thing in a trade agreement with Argentina or any other country, and that is not what the Foreign Relations Committee wants, we are sure.

THE CHAIRMAN. Have you ever heard of the Interdepartmental Committee, or the committee that is negotiating these agreements and having the matter up, intending to do that?

MR. MARSHALL. We had some discussions with Mr. Diemel, of the State Department, at the Argentine hearings last fall. You see, Senator, fellows like myself and others representing industries rarely, if ever, contact the men who sit in these negotiations. We get these boys down in the Committee for Reciprocity Information, and the clerks around the various offices of the Tariff Commission. Perhaps we have been too diffident in not going to the Secretary of State's office for original information, but our best information is that the State Department lawyers claim that the language of the act of 1934 does give them that power. I think

there is some room for doubt as to the legal status of the matter, and that is why I simply ask and urge that this committee amend the act of 1934, so that it will clearly provide that action shall be in accordance with the express wish of the Foreign Relations Committee expressed by its inaction.

THE CHAIRMAN. You have a great deal of confidence in this corps in the State Department who have been negotiating these trade agreements, haven't you? You think that they have done a pretty good job?

MR. MARSHALL. Well, I won't go quite that far.

THE CHAIRMAN. Well, they have done a pretty good job so far as the woolen people are concerned? They have not affected it?

MR. MARSHALL. They have been pretty good to us. I wish we could feel assured of as good treatment in the future from them, but I do think, if your committee will go into that matter, Mr. Chairman, that you will agree with me that it is highly desirable if you are going to extend this plan, that that matter of section 306-a should be protected. Now, I am going to venture a short discussion of what might happen and what we would like to see the committee do. As I understand it, the question you have before you in effect is: How shall import duties be prescribed after June 12, 1940? I would say that you have four alternatives:

1. Take no action and thereby return to Congress the duty and responsibility of writing the tariff law.

2. To merely extend the act of 1934.

3. To extend the act of 1934 with a requirement that trade agreements must be ratified as treaties, by the Senate. This plan is now before your committee as Senate Resolution 69.

4. The plan outlined in S. 3238 by Senator Vandenberg.

THE CHAIRMAN. You say you are for the bill of the Senator from Michigan?

MR. MARSHALL. To the extent that it seems to look for protection rather than reduction. Some parts of it with regard to the granting of powers I cannot go with.

SENATOR JOHNSON. I notice you do not state in your possible alternatives the proposal of Senator O'Mahoney.

MR. MARSHALL. Thank you for calling that to my attention. When I wrote this, I had not known that Senator O'Mahoney had changed his position. I supposed that he was still standing on the resolution which was before the committee, in which he proposed that these agreements should be ratified as treaties by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

THE CHAIRMAN. Do you know that Senator O'Mahoney made a very eloquent speech in 1934 along that line?

MR. MARSHALL. Well, I thought that he got out of it pretty well yesterday when he was confronted with that by the Senator from Missouri. I think he did a pretty good

job. However, I wish that some of the other Senators were progressing in their thinking as rapidly as we think Senator O'Mahoney is. Perhaps you are not all sufficiently Irish. (Laughter.)

Now, discussing these alternatives:

1. Take no action now: The membership of our association asks that the Congress resume the work of writing tariff laws. We recognize the magnitude of the task, but it has been well done in the past.

Much is said of the necessity of having duties set in a scientific way by experts and economists. To that argument I say: Employ all the experts and economists you wish, but let them be directed by and report to men who have been elected to write the laws and not to one or two individuals already overburdened with numerous and extremely important affairs of government. In short, I think the most statesmanlike thing this committee can do would be to keep this resolution in the files indefinitely, to exercise statesmanlike inactivity. The next—

2. Extend the act of 1934: Testimony before the Ways and Means Committee disposed of the notion, born of the panic, that the act of 1930 was in any way responsible for the international collapse of business in 1930.

On page 2128 of the report of the House hearings one of the most highly respected economists of this country shows that increases in four large classes of exports in 1937 as compared with 1934 amounted to 14.9 per cent for four countries at war, 117.9 per cent for the trade-agreement countries, and 109.9 per cent on the much larger volume of exports to non-trade-agreement countries not at war. The witness concluded that:

"We gained substantially nothing in exports as a result of foreign concessions to us in reciprocal trade agreements."

We do not consider that the present method is in harmony with the policy of reasonable protection for American production as written in the act of 1930, which still is in force. Certainly the present method has so far operated solely to reduce protection.

Of course, if you do extend the Trade Agreements Act, Congress could still change any duties not covered by reciprocal agreements and could change those, if the President consented, by giving 6 months' notice of termination after an agreement had been in effect for 3 years.

3. Ratification by the Senate: Of course I shall not attempt to add to the legal argument upon Senate ratification of trade agreements.

As I explained to Senator Johnson, my material was prepared without being aware that Senator O'Mahoney, for good reason, no doubt, has changed to having it ratified by both Houses, and much to my disappointment, his proposal now only would call for

a majority vote. I had hoped it might be two-thirds.

You will remember, Senator Harrison, very well that in December 1929 after our mutual friend, Mr. Grundy, took his seat, paragraph 1105 was under consideration—that was the one that carried that rag duty. I am rather inclined to think you voted with us at that time. I know Senator George and several other of our good friends from your part of the country voted that way.

THE CHAIRMAN. No; I illuminated the Congressional Record by opposing taxing rags. In the Underwood tariff bill, we put rags on the free list.

MR. MARSHALL. Yes; but not mohair at that time. If the act of 1934 is to be extended, we hope that Senate ratification by a two-thirds vote will be required.

I must point out that the treatment of our import duties with one country at a time is largely a nullification of the policy of protection which I believe more than a majority of the voters and of the Members of Congress, except "spot-protectionists," subscribe to. And this, I think, would still be true under Senate ratification.

I did not finish my thought when I called your attention to 1929 and paragraph 1105. I wanted to bring that in to support my thesis that in voting on single items or paragraphs or single schedules, that even staunch protectionists are sometimes outweighed in their thinking about what they think are the peculiar conditions in their constituencies. Certainly all but two of the protectionist Senators from New England's wool-manufacturing states, voted against paragraph 1105 and the rag duty, and it only became the law through the help of many southern Senators, even though some of them voted subsequently, no doubt, against the bill as a whole.

My argument is that when you are taking up one matter at a time and passing on them that way, that you cannot get a fair democratic writing of a list of import duties as a whole. I know that leads up to logrolling ideas, and I regret that. But, I am sure it is the only fair and the only democratic way to adopt a set of import duty rates. Any other system, and the present one, simply means a continuous process of whittling down of duties without regard to the amount of protection justifiable or to differences in costs of production.

If time permitted and if it were necessary, I am sure I could convince you that the trade-agreement plan is trading off agriculture to increase exports of factory products.

If the power over tariffs cannot be restored to Congress, then by all means let there be Senate ratification. That will do some good, though I still hold that it will continue to mean inept and unscientific reduction of duties and a negation of the

policy of fair protection which I still believe a majority desires.

THE CHAIRMAN. What was the price of raw wool in 1932?

MR. MARSHALL. Some we sold out on the range as low as 8 cents, but I think the farm price in the United States as a whole was between 11 and 12 cents. Of course, that was a condition under which no protective tariff could do the producer any good.

THE CHAIRMAN. That was the reason I asked you if that was the year you passed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act?

MR. MARSHALL. No; that was 2 years after the passage of that act.

THE CHAIRMAN. Oh, yes; it was passed in 1930?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN. What is the price now?

MR. MARSHALL. The last I have heard on the sale this year was 27 cents, the week before last.

THE CHAIRMAN. It has gotten above parity price, hasn't it?

MR. MARSHALL. No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN. What is the parity price?

MR. MARSHALL. I am glad you mentioned that parity price business. We are having a heck of a time with the Commodity Credit Corporation loan over there, in the Agricultural Department all the time. We are up against this all the time, and Secretary Wallace in a very friendly way always admitted it, but so few of them over there know anything about the wool business at all. The trouble is with—you referred to the Underwood-Simmons bill—the parity-base period of 1904 to 1919, including 1912 and 1913 when wool was placed on the free list, and it gives us a most highly inequitable base period for computing the pre-war value of our product. Other things were good then; hogs were good; corn was good; cotton, too; but wool was just in that tariff change, and it just ruins us, that parity period, every time.

THE CHAIRMAN. It does not seem to have ruined you much; you seem to have gotten along pretty well by maintaining a good price for wool and not having raw wool touched by the reciprocal trade agreements, and I notice in this publication on the agricultural situation as presented here, December, 1939, entitled "Brief Summary of Economic Conditions," that as against the parity price as of November, 1929, it is 23.4, but the wool people were getting at that time on raw wool 27.6, so it is above it.

MR. MARSHALL. We would have gotten 27.6 if we were selling wool, but that is wool at Boston. There was no wool in the country at that time. We had all sold out before the war and before the price went up. I got 22 cents last year, and the market is not as high today as your report shows

it was in November or December, but the grower did not get that increase in 1939, which was a price that came partly as a result of the outbreak of the war.

THE CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions?

SENATOR JOHNSON. I would like to emphasize, if I may, the fact that Mr. Marshall is not complaining about past experience very seriously, at least, but he is apprehensive about the future and the pending legislation deals with the future entirely. We are not repealing anything in the pending legislation. The existing trade agreements will continue in full force and effect, and the only matter that is before us is whether there shall be new trade agreements. Is that not correct?

MR. MARSHALL. Yes, sir; that is my position exactly.

SENATOR JOHNSON. And is it not a fact that the wool market is a very sensitive market, and the prospect of trade agreements—just even the prospect of them—unsettles the market and causes the producer heavy losses; and would it not be a fine thing for the producer if this thing could be settled and settled permanently on some kind of a permanent basis so that the prospect of unsettlement would not often be hanging over the market?

MR. MARSHALL. That is exactly what we would like, Senator Johnson; although the old fashioned way of changing these things by congressional action was not complete stability, it was much superior to the constant threat that anything can be done in a few months or weeks without the consultation of Congress, as it is at present. We think we would have a much greater measure of stability if this plan were not in effect.

SENATOR JOHNSON. Yes; but that is not the question that is before the Congress at the present time. The question before us now is whether we shall extend the agreements.

MR. MARSHALL. If you do extend them, you just renew that complete instability and uncertainty and apprehension, which, as you bring out, the wool trade is very much appraised of and takes advantage, and properly so, of every prospect there may be to reduce the duty on wool by reflecting it in the prices we get.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that that matter that I brought out about that language in the Canadian agreement which has not been passed upon by the Foreign Relations Committee, will, on further study, commend itself to you, and that the committee should clarify that point by an amendment such as I have suggested, which will exempt section 306-a from the present provisions of the act of 1934, if extended. Again I urge that your committee adopt a policy of statesmanlike and masterly inactivity.

THE CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Marshall.

The Lamb Markets

Chicago

Since writing the report of the Chicago market in February, the whole sheep and lamb market has tackled another grade. Today, March 4, \$10.60 was paid for strings of 94- to 97-pound lambs; others at \$10.50 weighed 89 pounds; nothing under \$10.50 except throwouts. Most of the receipts came from Colorado.

Shearers paid \$9.10 for 79-pound seconds. Yearlings with wool on them, 91 pounds, sold at \$9.25; 68-pound fresh shorn lambs at \$8.75 and 108-pound fed ewes at \$5.85.

Eastern demand for lambs on hoof and a series of short runs were responsible for the rise.

J. E. Poole

ADAM SMITH wrote it more than a century ago and the economic facts in his *Wealth of Nations* are as sound now as then, regardless of modern blatherings by pseudo-economists of the present generation. The law of supply and demand may be derided but it is as immutable as the statutes of the Medes and Persians.

Confirmatory evidence is furnished by current events in the live mutton market. The moment slaughter diminished and the visible supply worked into strong hands, values advanced sharply and irresistibly. Lambs worth \$9 or less early in February worked steadily to \$10 late in the month when city butchers paid \$10.15 for picked lots; packers and shippers \$10. This upturn came 30 days earlier than last year and was the logical sequence of reduced slaughter, plus a free volume of Atlantic seaboard orders. A sluggish dressed market came to life overnight after battling with cheap pork over a 2-month period. Possibly consumers became sated with a hog product diet. It may have been merely a coincidence but the moment processors launched a nation-wide "eat-more-pork" campaign, the hog market dropped to the lowest level of the season, lambs advancing to the highest. Advertising has undoubted merit, but this experience is calculated to engender discredit. On the date, late in February, when packers put up Chicago hog

droves at \$4.99 per hundred, top lambs realized \$10 and \$9.85@9.90 took the bulk. The following day shippers paid \$10 and \$10.10, without filling orders, packers matching that price.

At the corresponding period of 1939 the limit was \$9, the bulk realizing \$8.75@8.90, but by the end of March \$10 was paid, the market crawling up to \$10.50@10.75 in April when \$11 was paid. This bulge may have discounted the future, but at the inception of March the trade, both live and dressed, was on a healthy basis; Atlantic seaboard demand is insistent even on sessions when few orders came from that source and consensus in trade circles is that the high point has not been reached.

A significant fact is that the eastern dressed market, wholesale on a carcass basis, advanced \$3 to \$3.50 per hundred meanwhile, choice carcasses went to \$20 in New York and Boston and instead of the previous drowsy market with forced clearances at bargain sales, the platter was swept clean each week-end.

Coincident with practical disappearance of farm-fed western lambs, mainly Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, an upturn began. Processors bucked it persistently, having previously announced that they had their peg in the \$9 hole. On single-day liberal receipts, they took off 25 cents occasionally, but when the truck run from nearby territory dwindled to a few hundred, daily sharp upturns were the rule. By early March the visible supply was in strong hands, mainly Colorado and western Nebraska, with a possible movement from the California valleys several weeks distant.

Unless feeding areas west of the Missouri River conceal more lambs than they are credited with, the January prediction that the late market will be \$1.50 to \$2 higher than at the outset was a good bet. However, a price ceiling is inevitable, cheap pork with powerful selling force behind it and competition of avian foods, including eggs, must be reckoned with. A sharp advance in fat cattle prices late in February is a favorable symptom, especial-

ly as the crop of steers that went into feed lots last fall has been closely marketed following a period of strenuous liquidation. January slaughter was 10 per cent heavier than that of the same month last year, which in combination with cheap hog product was responsible for an \$8.50@9 lamb market at that period.

However, an \$11 to \$12.50 market for shipping steers is out of line with \$10 lambs, also with \$5 hogs. The disparity is not easily explained, except that steers in the upper price bracket are abnormally scarce while the bulk of lambs sell at or within 25 cents of the top. That liquidation of the winter fed lamb crop is over does not need assertion; feeders in the western sections know their stuff and cannot be influenced by propaganda. They will feed the March and April market with precisely the number killers actually need.

Following heavy production in January, supply was sharply contracted. During the first three weeks of February, the kill was 12 per cent less than a year ago, which adequately accounts for the bulge, as the line between surplus and deficient supply is barely perceptible. That the dressed market stood up in the face of a sharp upturn is reassuring. From \$14.50 to \$16.50 per hundred, wholesale carcass cost was marked up to \$16.50@20, without halting the advance in the live market.

Wool cannot be credited with responsibility, as pelt values have been maintained all through the winter at one figure, \$2.50 per hundred, live weight of the animal, although \$3.25 would have been justified at the high time. By sticking to one figure, wool pullers strike an average for the season, incidentally protecting themselves against depreciation. That they consider wool good property is indicated by stiff penalties on shorn stock, of which they garnered a slim crop this season, meticulously buying both lambs and yearlings on the basis of fleece development since shearing. Shorn lambs

realized \$7.50 to \$9 according to the wool carried; yearlings \$7 to \$8.25. Yearlings disappeared early in February and not enough shorn lambs have reported to make a market.

The upturn has set the stage for a healthier feeder market when that run materializes next summer. No fed western lambs have lost money as corn was cheap and the weather ideal for making gains. Fearful of putting on excess weight, feeders marketed early at 95 to 98 pounds, reducing the number of 100- to 110-pound stock to such an extent that overweights sold close to top prices, especially when killers were under the necessity of buying for numbers, a not infrequent occurrence. Lambs weighing over 100 pounds sold at \$10 on the hot market late in February, shorn of the same weight at \$8.75.

Light February slaughter was attributable to two factors. January delivered a large percentage of fed natives, a growing practice; also a considerable number of 90-to 95-pound fed westerns were dislodged by the weight scare. Had the kill been equalized between the two months, the market would have worked out of its \$8.50@9 rut earlier and the February rise would have been less spectacular.

Practically every carload of winter fed lambs has held the investment together and paid the feed bill with a margin of profit. On the advance 50-cent corn put into a lamb could be cashed for \$1 at the stockyards. As much cannot be said of cattle.

Unless all the handwriting on the wall is deceptive, there will be no wrangling about \$7 feeding lambs, delivered corn belt next fall, as, like the core of the school boy's apple, there will be none. Stock cattle are scarce, costly and, even after recent feeders' reverses, in demand, so that farmer feeders will take on lambs. The rise of grass is uncertain, as the drought that set in last fall has been only temporarily relieved. Over extensive corn belt areas subsoil moisture is as scarce as back in 1936 when the corn crop was a partial failure. Large quantities of corn of the 1939 crop are being hoarded in expectation of one short crop following three big yields in a row, not to speak of a huge A.A.A. holding stored

Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

Week Ended:	Mar. 2, 1940	Feb. 24, 1940	Mar. 4, 1939
Spring Lambs:			
Choice ¹	\$	\$	\$ 9.16
Good and Choice	9.88	9.68	8.92
Medium and Good	9.38	9.32	8.16
Common	8.22	8.18	6.98
Ewes:			
Good and Choice	5.18	5.02	4.82
Common and Medium	7.88	3.66	3.55

NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES

Choice—38 lbs. down	\$19.10	\$18.75	\$16.85
Good—38 lbs. down	18.10	18.12	16.35
Medium—All weights	16.60	16.25	14.60
Common—All weights	15.60	15.25	13.50

¹Closely Sorted

away in tin cans. The country has been bullish on corn since the last crop was picked and it is possible that gains will cost feeders more money next winter. That eventuality is up to Dame Nature, but further contraction of corn acreage, 12 to 15 per cent this year, is responsible for expanding pasture acreage, plus heavier production of forage crops. To beat curtailed corn acreage, the belt is planting a record Sorgho or grain sorghum crop this year and as it has no marketable value every ounce must be "fed up," while corn goes to the crib as a speculative holding. In the event that another big crop is picked next fall demand for thin lambs will be accentuated.

California reports a large lamb crop with physical conditions favorable for throwing a generous proportion on the eastern market, in contrast to 1939 failure. Texas is dry, heavy mortality being reported from the San Angelo section. In the Ohio Valley, mainly Kentucky and Tennessee, the crop will be late; possibly light, that section having had sub-arctic temperatures and heavy snow, making winter wheat pastures unavailable.

Northwestern flocks have wintered

well, promising a normal spring lamb crop. Trading is at a standstill everywhere—meaning breeding stock—although potential demand is ill-concealed. Early trades in California fat lambs at \$8.50 "straight across" are reported, but there will be few early lamb trades in the Northwest, as breeders have definite ideas concerning the value of their property, having made sacrifices last year by taking early bids.

Texas will be short again this year. Fort Worth advices are that receipts on that market will be considerably smaller than in 1939. Packages of creep feds are in sight but they do not make volume. Corn belt demand for Texas yearlings to go on summer pastures is assured, as that type has made more money than anything else during the past year, selling close to lambs, with which they go into distributive channels on an equality basis.

Contrasted with feed-lot and market performance by the other species during the past three months, lambs, yearlings, and sheep have given a good account of themselves. A \$5@5.50 market for fed ewes indicates that mutton is still salable in limited quantities.

J. E. Poole

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Kansas City

THE February lamb market produced the highest prices for the season and the highest average prices since last November. The advance was sustained throughout the month with the high points coming in the latter half of the period. Demand was not only good volume but was aggressive on practically all sessions. There was a moderate improvement in quality and for the most part offerings carried good finish. Strong to heavy weight classes predominated. Neither January nor February was considered as a good feeding month, but lambs seem to have made fairly good gains.

January closed with the best lambs selling at \$8.85 and February opened with a \$9.10 top. From then on top prices fluctuated within a dollar range at \$8.75 to \$9.75. The market had a higher average in the last half of the month than in the first half and the extreme high point of \$9.75 was paid at the beginning of the fourth week. The closing top, \$9.65, was 80 cents higher than the January close.

Offerings of shorn lambs increased rather sharply after the first week and in the last ten days they were in fairly good supply. At the outset shorn lambs brought \$7.25 to \$7.75 and towards the close they brought \$7.75 to \$8.50. In some cases early shearing had been done to modify the unattractive appearance of broken and stringy fleeces and yearling typing. As the season advances shearing will be more general, especially on heavyweight lambs and if feed lots continue muddy.

Most of the mature mutton classes offered were ewes. The few yearlings available sold at \$6.75 to \$8. Those selling below \$7.25 carried some two. A few bunches of aged wethers brought \$5 to \$6. Ewes uncovered a price range of \$2.50 to \$5. Practically no really fat ewes sold below \$3.75 and the bulk moved at \$4 to \$4.75. The top, \$5, was paid on the last several days of the month.

In the average fed lambs have not yielded a net profit this season. Feed in most localities, was higher than had been anticipated. Poor gains in January added to production costs and with

snow on the ground most of the period, larger labor costs were required. This was especially true in Kansas and Texas, where feeders count on wheat field pasturage to produce most of the weight. From early January until the last week in February wheat fields, where there had been any plant growth, were covered with snow and ice, and feeders had to resort to bought feed to carry their lambs.

General conditions are favorable for a continuation of firm prices, except on extreme heavy weight lambs and they probably will draw price discounts from now on. The central west and west feeding sections have fewer lambs on feed at the close of February than a year ago. This supply, if there is a normal per cent of lighter weights, can be spread out over a period of eight weeks or more and will not prove a burden to demand.

Outside of a few bunches of native hothouse lambs that will be available for the Easter trade, the supply of milk lambs offered during the first half of March will be limited. Easter this year, March 24, comes unusually early and as it takes a week to ten days for processing and distribution, March 15 is about the deadline for the Easter trade. Arizona will be able to supply some good lambs by that date but early information is that the lamb crop there is smaller this year than in each of the two previous years.

February receipts in Kansas City were 88,250, compared with 117,588 in the same month last year. Practically the entire decrease was in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas offerings. These states fed fewer sheep and lambs this season than in former years. For the two months, arrivals were 198,078, as against 244,327 in the first two months last year.

C. M. Pipkin

Omaha

IN general lamb and sheep markets at Omaha during February were decidedly in favor of the selling side. Mainly because receipts dropped considerably after the first ten days, prices of fat lambs climbed sharply and stayed higher. The market gained about 75



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cents for the month. The feeder lamb market was healthy with few relapses, and showed about a 25-cent advance, while markets for breeding stock and fat ewes were fully steady.

Receipts for the month were 112,700, compared with 124,600 for February 1939. Excepting only the total for February, 1938, it was the smallest run for the month since 1908.

Fat lamb supplies were mainly fed woolled lambs from the Scotts Bluff area and other feeding districts farther west. While there was a slight seasonal increase in numbers of lambs weighing 100 pounds or more, light receipts made it impossible for buyers to apply any considerable price penalties.

The range for the daily top price was \$8.65@9.75. At the close, bulk of the fed lambs sold from \$9.40 to the \$9.65 top.

Spring lambs went at \$10 on the 16th, having come in just about a month earlier than 1939's first new-crop arrivals.

There is now little to indicate that supplies of fat lambs can mount up to the proportions maintained during the early months of the fed lamb season. The outlook for wool prices continues uncertain, mainly because it is not known when importations will be made, if they are made at all. Still another factor bearing on the wool market is whether importations would bring heavy marketings of domestic wools.

So far low prices of pork have failed to drag down markets for lamb and beef. With the strong campaign for increased pork consumption getting results, at least to the extent that processors have been able to keep the large supplies of meat moving, possibly pork prices will not have as bearish an effect on other kinds of meat as has seemed likely.

On many days during February there were not enough feeder lambs here to make a market. However, demand for feeders was good and it took a two- or three-day stretch of bearishness in the killer trade to lessen inquiry for lambs. The \$9.10 top paid on the 28th was the peak for that far in the fed lamb season. That price took choice lambs of feeder weight. However, there was an increasing amount of business in unfinished lambs that averaged above 70 pounds, and within a few weeks most of those selling in this division will be shearing lambs. Demand should continue good, but the spread between fat lamb and feeder prices, which widened considerably during the latter part of February, probably will not be narrowed.

Receipts of all kinds of ewes continued seasonally light, and prices for both killers and breeding stock were steady. Mutton shared some early reverses in the dressed trade, but also reflected some later improvement, and top was at \$5.00 as the month ended. Demand for breeding ewes was good, with bulk of them being bred ewes. Ewes should continue in a favorable position for quite a while, mainly because no large supply of them is in sight, the sheep business in the corn belt continues to expand, and packers will need a quota of ewes.

Ray Burley

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for February were 78,016 compared with 94,700 in January and 86,892 in February a year ago. Of the month's total 21,559 came from Colorado feed lots, 15,158 from Nebraska, 13,464 from Texas and New Mexico, and 2,334 from Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

The lamb market was in good shape throughout the month and closing prices are fully 75 cents higher. On the extreme close best fed westerns sold at \$9.65, with less desirable and heavier kinds \$9.40@9.60. Best natives sold at \$9.50 on the close compared with \$8.75 a month ago. Fresh clipped lambs sold late at \$7.75 with fall clips at \$8.50. Fat ewes closed the month 25 cents higher, best kinds selling at \$5.25 on the close. Yearlings closed around 75 cents higher, with twos and old wethers 25@50 cents up. Yearlings sold up to \$8.60 late, with wethers and twos quoted \$6@7.50.

H. H. Madden

Denver

RECEIPTS for the month of February totaled 121,908 head, as compared to 114,410 for the same month last year, or an increase of 7,498, which was made up largely of increased receipts from Colorado, Utah, and Texas.

Fed lamb prices at Denver were quite gratifying the last half of February when a climb of 85 cents per hundred was made between the 17th and 28th. From February 1 to 29 a gain of 60 cents per hundred was experienced.

The first week of February was very discouraging to lamb feeders generally, when prices dropped from \$9 FPR top basis paid on the first day of the month to lows of \$8.60 FPR, top on both the 7th and 8th—especially in view of the fact that most feeders in our locality claim they need \$9.50 on the average to come out.

From the 9th through the 13th we experienced a nice rise of 50 cents per hundred, which was the first encouragement given to lamb feeders. A dime was taken off on each of the two following days which broke down the hopes of some, but the market closed the week on February 17 a dime higher and in a stronger position, reviving hopes again that some further strength would be forthcoming the following week.

On Monday, the 19th, another upturn did occur to a top of \$9.15 FPR. Still more surprises happened on each of the following three days when \$9.60 FPR top was reached on the 22nd, mak-

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ing for a net rise of 70 cents per hundred in four straight market days. The market leveled off with a \$9.60 FPR top the balance of the week and otherwise discouraged feeders began to brighten up a bit.

The last week in February saw a steady market the first two days, then on Wednesday a further upturn occurred when the month's peak of \$9.75 FPR was paid for 20 carloads, or the bulk of the run. On February 29 fat lambs dropped off 15 cents per hundred to a top of \$9.60 FPR paid for the day's bulk. At this writing, March 1, with a heavy snow falling plumb full of moisture and the ground in perfect shape to absorb it, we are experiencing another rise in the market back up to a top of \$9.75 FPR for many carloads of northern Colorado fed lambs.

In summing up the Denver sheep market for the past month, we find that a total of 276 carloads of northern Colorado freight paid fed lambs sold at an average of \$9.21 per hundred. There were 98 loads from all Colorado points that averaged \$8.88 on a flat basis. Twenty-five cars of Wyoming fed lambs averaged \$8.82 flat basis. Six loads of Idaho lambs averaged \$8.92 and five cars of Utahs averaged \$8.97 flat.

A total of 12 carloads of lambs during February were sold to feeder and shearer buyers at prices ranging from \$8.25 to \$8.90 flat basis—these coming from southern and western Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. Three cars of northern Colorado shearing lambs were bought on the 28th at \$9.15 and \$9.25 freight paid. The average price for feeding lambs in carloads on a flat basis for February was \$8.60 per hundred.

Two cars of Idaho clipped lambs, the only clippers received during the month, were sold on the 24th at \$7.90 flat, averaging 95 pounds.

Several loads of fed ewes from southern Colorado and Wyoming were cleared at \$4.25 to \$4.65 flat, and one car of northern Colorado was taken at \$4.65 FPR.

Trucked-in fat lambs were secured during February at prices ranging mostly from \$8.25 to \$8.75, with some lower grade kinds at \$7.75 to \$8, and towards

the end of the month some lots were taken up to \$9.

It will be noted that the national sheep and lamb slaughter for the four-week period ending February 23 this year totaled 976,000 head, as compared to 1,113,000 head for the same period a year ago—or a decrease this year of 137,000 head or 12 per cent. These figures took in only those slaughtered under federal inspection, which accounted for 79 per cent of the total national slaughter.

In the shipments of 92,000 head of sheep and lambs out of the Denver market during February, there were 14,500 head of feeder lambs sold on and through the market going to feed lots located from Colorado to Illinois. This left around 77,500 head of fat sheep and lambs that were sold for shipment out to many slaughtering points located between Denver and the Atlantic Coast. These 77,500 fat lambs were scattered over the eastern two thirds of the nation and amounted to only a fraction over 6 per cent of the nation's total slaughter during the period.

Local sheep and lamb slaughter in February totaled 26,217 head, and for the first two months this year 50,843 head were killed at Denver packing plants.

R. C. Albright

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Spring Lamb Situation

THE outlook for lambs is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its release of February 20, 1940, as follows:

Marketings of sheep and lambs during the remainder of the fed-lamb marketing season, which ends about May 1, may be no larger than in the corresponding period last year. Marketings of fed lambs were larger than a year earlier during the past three months, but a major part of the movement of fed lambs from the corn belt, where most of the increase in lamb feeding took place, will be completed by the end of February. Reports indicate, however, that marketings of yearlings from Texas will be larger this spring than last.

Early lamb prospects are good in California and Arizona, and early lambs in those states are developing rapidly. Last spring there was a large early movement of lambs from California because of a shortage of pasture. Heavy rainfall in that state during January indicates that pastures will be better this spring than last and that shipments of early lambs from California will be later this spring than in the spring of 1939. Losses of early lambs in January in Texas were reported to be fairly heavy because of unfavorable weather. Spring feed prospects, however, are favorable in Texas and marketings of early lambs from that state may be larger than last spring.

Sheep in the western range states generally are wintering in good condition, and losses have been light. Severe weather and snow in January caused some shrinkage in the condition of sheep in the areas east of the Continental Divide, but west of the main range there was a general improvement in the condition of sheep. Considerable supplementary feeding of sheep has been necessary where ranges have been covered by snow.

Date When Snow Melts in Spring Gauge for Mountain Grazing Season

BY observing the late snow melt on mountain sides, ranchers and range administrators can make reasonably accurate estimates as to when forage plants on high summer ranges will be ready for grazing.

Investigations in Utah made by David F. Costello and Raymond Price of the Forest Service show a combination study of plant growth and weather information makes it possible to predict future growth stages of important

forage plants as far ahead as three months in advance of the opening of the grazing season. Their findings are reported in a technical bulletin issued recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Results of the study, while confined to Utah, are considered a reliable base for determining grazing period openings in similar regions characterized by a permanent winter snow and a definite summer growing season.

"Active growth of forage plants in the spring starts immediately after winter snow melts," say Costello and Price. "The progress of the entire growing season was found to be related closely to the snow melt date. Seasons which begin early, late or normal, depending upon the date of snow melt, tend to remain so throughout the growing period."

The scientists stress the importance of basing the opening date for grazing on the growth and development of important key forage species such as Letterman needlegrass, mountain brome, and slender wheatgrass.

Instead of using an average opening date, Costello and Price recommend that the opening date for grazing be varied according to the yearly growth of the important forage plants. By referring to the time of snow melt, the date of range readiness can be forecast in ample time for both the livestock operator and the range administrator to adjust their plans to the approaching growing season. As the dates of seed maturity can also be forecast, the range administrator can therefore set up grazing dates for the entire season, including dates for deferred grazing, before the grazing season opens.

Plant development on intermountain ranges is further influenced by altitude. For each thousand foot increase in elevation, for example, plant development in the Ephraim Canyon area in Utah is delayed from 10 to 14 days, but once it starts, plant growth is said to be more rapid at higher elevations than at lower points.

The new technical bulletin 686, "Weather and Plant-Development Data as Determinants of Grazing Periods on Mountain Range," may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for ten cents.

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Luther Belden, President

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ME JUST ONCE
A
YEAR!"



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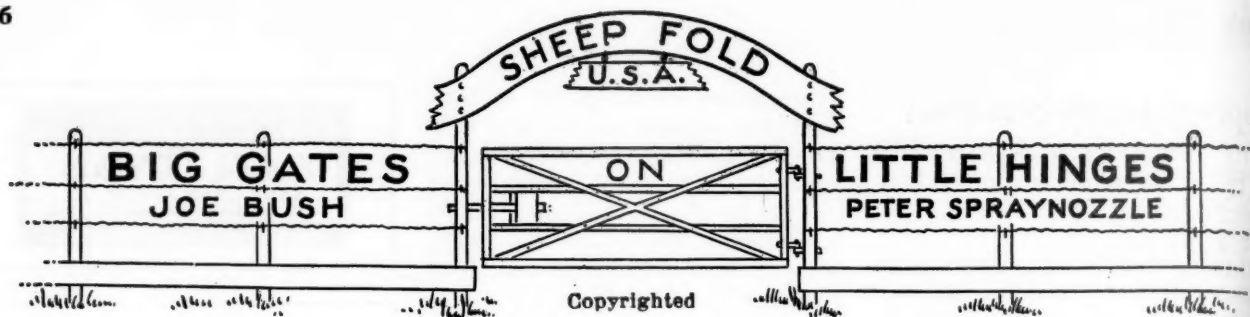


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MARCH 1940, und as we write this column for the National Wool Grower from our Sheepfold home, no April ever waved a gentler wand of spring than has March 1940 up until the time of setting this down on paper. But we are not fooled: if it continues warm we will be happy; if the weather changes, if a rip-snorter comes snorting down out of the Northwest, we are prepared.

March is March, always a busy month where sheep, hogs, cattle, range or dairy herds—any kind of livestock—have their winter range. Joe Bush, who has been the “mid-wife” nurse to colts, calves, lambs und pigs by the litter, says that if a baby calf or lamb is to be born in March, the mamma cow or ewe (note to the editor: Be sure und spell that “ewe”) will always pick a March blizzard for what Walter Winchell would call “a blessed event.”

In conversation vid a number of sheep und cattle men, Reed Stevens, who was cradled in a saddle on a cowpony riding the Summit County, Utah, range, wondered (Reed did) vhat Winchell would call the event if he had to saddle a snow-coated hoss vid a cold saddle, ride out to a willow thicket, pick up a baby lamb all wet vid snow, cuddle the little darling to his bosom und ride back vid the mamma ewe bleating her fears as she trailed her kidnaped baby to the sheltering sheep sheds in the home corral.

Joe Bush wonders how many yodeling cowboys und herders on the stage, screen, or Major Bowes’ radio program, would have the courage to saddle und ride in the face of a March blizzard howling down out of the North, to save a baby lamb und yodel as they rode, “Home on the Range.” Joe says it takes the real article to do that. He may not have a silk shirt, or a silk neck decorator, a big hat or high-heeled boots, but saving blizzard-born lambs is part of his job, so he does it.

In the making of a ranch und keeping it on the “up und up” as a going concern, there are two things required: land und labor. They are inseparable. When we write here of labor, we refer to that labor that prepares the land for seeding; plants, cultivates und harvests the crop; tends the sheep und cattle on the summer und winter range, makes hay from the grass that grows under the other feller’s feet.

The land may be used to grow wheat, corn, tobacco, cattle, sheep, horses or hogs; the land may be used to produce poultry, garden truck, or fruit; the crop may be good or bad; the sale price of farm crops may be good or just “fair to middling”; there may be too much or too little rain, a late spring or an early fall freeze; the sheepman

may shiver in his cotton underwear while tending his wool-bearing sheep,—but regardless of the weather conditions, price prospects, supply or demand, the work on the farm or the range und the ranch must go on. Once the land operator has put his hand to the plow, he can let go und put his hand to the cultivator.

To the rancher born to the soil, an acre of good land has the same call that an untouched piece of canvas has to an artist with a picture in his soul; the picture must be painted, the acre must be plowed. The farmer who is a farmer shares vid God the “miracle of giving green things birth.” It’s God’s will that he do produce to the full measure of his ability as a farmer und the productiveness of his acres.

If it’s profitable for the Department of Agriculture under the Triple A system to make a grass widow out of agriculture, pay agriculture under the A.A.A. (Agriculture’s Allocated Alimony) for not producing, then looks like it might be good business to pay labor for not laboring, transportation companies for not operating; pay bankers interest on money they might have loaned but didn’t. How nice that would be. Bankers could use the deposits in their banks to take trips to Europe, go deep sea fishing off the Florida Coast, play und bet on winter golf in California, or finance another Republican campaign, just for the fun of it.

But looks like Joe Bush says, there would come a time when the old weasel skin would be just an empty wallet in the pocket of the rancher; when the land would all belong to the state because of non-payment of taxes; when freight cars would sit empty on sidings; when Wallace of Iowa would say, as did Joseph of Canaan to the farmers of Egypt (Gen. 47-23), “I have this day bought you and your land.” Take away their independence, drive them from their farms, huddle them in cities und towns, make of them sharecroppers as in Gen. 47-24, the fifth part to Pharaoh, four parts to the farmer, und like Joe Bush says, one part to plow under.

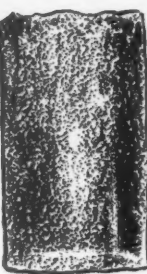
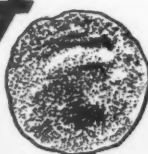
Idle men und non-productive herds und acres have never made a nation rich or fed und clothed a hungry, naked people. Only when man und acres are productive to the full measure of their ability; only in a land where there is an abundance, shall humanity, as in Micah 4-4, “sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; the Lord of hosts has spoken it.”

Peter Spraynozzle

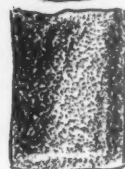


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No. 1 and No. 2 Pellets are especially designed for range feeding of cattle and sheep. No. 3 and No. 4 Pellets are designed for trough feeding of cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, and mules. All of these Pellets are golden yellow in color. They are very palatable and highly digestible. New crop is now available. Through our extensive distribution system we can supply you with one ton or a trainload. Write or wire for prices, samples and literature.



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(FEED DIVISION)

ILLINOIS

Western Lamb Sales And Contracts

CONSERVATIVE estimates place the spring lamb crop at 100,000 head in the Salt River Valley in Arizona, the Agricultural Marketing Service states in its Western Sheep and Lamb Contract Report for the week ending March 2, 1940. The bulk of these lambs will, undoubtedly, find an outlet before May 15. There are around 17,000 head of old crop lambs in this area, either in dry lot or on pasture. A couple of weeks ago a few 81-87 pound spring lambs secured \$9 per hundred f.o.b. loading point, destination Los Angeles. There have been no recent sales reported. It is not likely that over 15,000 spring lambs will be available from this area for March delivery.

In Yuma Valley, the same report states, there are about 3,500 spring lambs and approximately 11,000 head of old crop lambs. There are around 1,000 head of ewes available for slaughter. A few old crop shorn lambs

around 107 pounds secured \$7.65 per hundred, with a 4 per cent shrinkage, freight paid to Los Angeles.

Pastures and ranges, generally, in the Arizona valleys are in good condition.

Estimates by sheep interests place the spring lamb crop at 40,000 in the Imperial Valley in California. The old crop lambs remaining on feed in this area approximate 42,000 head. Slaughter ewes on pasture total around 11,000 head. Some of these old crop lambs and slaughter ewes are held on contract, but have not been delivered thus far. Recent contracts in the Imperial Valley on old crop lambs were on a \$9 per hundred basis for good woolled lambs around 97 pounds, weighed with a 4 per cent shrinkage and freight paid to Los Angeles. Others carrying a large per cent of medium lambs secured \$8.25 per hundred f.o.b. loading point. The bulk of the old crop shorn lambs are being contracted at \$7 to \$7.25 per hundred f.o.b. loading point. Freshly shorn slaughter ewes recently were contracted at \$4.25 per hundred freight paid to

Los Angeles. There have been no spring lamb contracts noted to date.

In the San Joaquin Valley it is estimated that around 15,000 spring lambs have been contracted for future delivery. Some of these were contracted at \$8.50 per hundred for delivery up to April 15, with a stipulated 60-pound minimum; others were contracted at \$8.25 per hundred, growers' option on delivery, with a 50-pound minimum.

In the Sacramento Valley several lots of spring lambs were contracted at \$9 per hundred for March delivery. Reports indicate that a few bids have been made above that figure, but refused.

Feed conditions in the California valleys, the Agricultural Marketing Service states, are very favorable, having had an abundance of rain during February. A few days of warm weather would be beneficial to range conditions and the maturing of the spring lamb crop. Prospects at the present time (March 2) look very encouraging for a large supply of lambs in slaughter flesh at delivery time.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

Women Demand Wool

This is the winning essay in a contest conducted in the Home Economics Department of the University of Utah and sponsored by the Salt Lake Chapter of the Utah Wool Growers Auxiliary. The prize given Miss Margaret Howells, author of the essay, was a beautiful all-wool blanket donated to the Salt Lake Auxiliary by the Baron Woolen Mills of Brigham City, Utah, and the Wasatch Loan Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. W. V. Pace was in charge of the contest.—Editor's Note.

WOMEN demand wool! Because it is "tried and true."

Wool was used by our most primitive ancestor centuries ago and is still used in the civilized countries today for everything from the downiest baby garment to the sturdiest rug.

The softness of texture and elastic qualities of wool provide warmth and comfort without burdensome bulk.

The absorbent qualities of wool make it the health fabric for the most active skier to the tiniest baby, for it protects against sudden changes of temperature.

Still, some of our smartest fabrics today for all seasons of the year are spun of wool, because wool may be spun in very sheer or very heavy materials; and its affinity for dye gives us new and attractive colors, vivid or pastel, bright or dull.

Wool is not only used for clothing. It ranks first in the building and furnishing of a home. It provides all that a careful homemaker wants; serviceability, durability, as well as style and beauty.

Our chairs and davenports are attractively covered with wool; our rugs are woven of wool; the mattresses we sleep on are filled with wool; and the soft, luxurious blankets that cover us are made from fluffy, wool fibers.

Why do women demand wool? Because for suitability, wearability, durability, and serviceability, wool ranks as the first choice of all.

Margaret Howells



Mrs. W. V. Pace of the Salt Lake Auxiliary presenting blanket to Miss Margaret Howell, contest winner for best essay on wool.

UTAH

THE Utah Wool Growers' Auxiliary held its annual convention in the Jade Room of the Hotel Utah, Thursday, January 18. The President, Mrs. H. S. Erickson, presided.

Community singing, led by Mrs. Olive N. Rich, and accompanied by Mrs. Lila Bush, started the meeting off with a friendly spirit, which prevailed throughout the entire two days of the combined men's and women's convention.

The guest speaker for the afternoon meeting was Mr. Stanley J. Stephenson, secretary of the Utah Manufacturers Association of Salt Lake City. He sketched briefly the background of our industrial history, giving much credit to women and their efforts, especially during the pioneering age. He also gave expression to some of the successes achieved in America and Utah, also, some of the reverses, and offered his ideas for making some improvement.

An amendment to the constitution and by-laws was passed to allow for the election of a second vice president in addition to a first vice president.

Brief reports of the activities carried on by their respective chapters were given by the following ladies: Mrs.

Grace Chipman of American Fork; Mrs. Briant Stringham of Vernal; Mrs. A. P. Spilsbury and Mrs. Myron Higbee of Cedar City; Mrs. Don Clyde and Mrs. J. T. Murdock of Heber City.

Reports were also given by the President, Mrs. H. S. Erickson; Mrs. Q. Crawford, vice president; Mrs. Alex Crystal, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Henry Moss, secretary and treasurer. Mrs. Erickson included in her report the work the state organization had done in putting over its attractive booth at the State Fair and also the prize it gave in connection with the fat lamb show.

Mrs. J. H. Manderfield, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Mrs. M. A. Smith, in charge of the quilt raffle and Mrs. T. Tracy Wright, president of the Salt Lake Chapter, also spoke briefly.

Election of officers for the ensuing two years was held with the following results: President, Mrs. J. R. Eliason of Salt Lake City; first vice president, Mrs. Thomas Coddington of American Fork; second vice president, Mrs. Briant Stringham of Vernal; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. W. S. Hatch of Woods Cross.

Socially, the high-spot of the ladies' convention was the luncheon held in the Empire Room of the Hotel Utah on Friday, January 19. Here, over eighty women met and enjoyed a tasty luncheon, and a program prepared by the Salt Lake Chapter of the Utah Wool Growers Auxiliary.

President Mrs. T. Tracy Wright presided at the speakers' table, which was attractively decorated with a lovely floral centerpiece and small models of favors at each place were cleverly designed cowboys with string lariats and lambs-wool chaps.

The toastmistress, Mrs. Alex Crystal introduced Mrs. W. V. Pace, who gave a toast entitled "There are Presidents and There are Presidents," to our Chapter President, Mrs. Wright. Mrs. J. R. Eliason gave an apt toast in honor of

our retiring State President, Mrs. H. S. Erickson; and Mrs. M. A. Smith paid a few words of respect and presented a lovely leather handbag to the retiring secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Henry Moss.

What proved to be a most unusual and inspiring talk was given after the luncheon by Mr. Lee Kay of the State Fish and Game Department. Mr. Kay told a story of "Old Pine," a tree which lived to be 1,047 years old and grew to be 115 feet tall. The story was that of the tree itself as discovered and studied by Ernest Mills, who recorded the story of this giant pine as he saw it.

Salt Lake City

The February meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter was held in the Lion House following a luncheon in the cafeteria. President Mrs. T. Tracy Wright presided.

The speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Geo. A. Cochran, gave a very instructive talk about the "Value of Lamb in the Diet." We learned that of all animal meats, lamb is by far the most healthful food, both because of its better digestibility, and its freedom from disease.

State President Mrs. H. S. Erickson gave a report of her trip to the National Convention at Casper, Wyoming, and reports were given by Mrs. Seeley, delegate to the Council of Women, and Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, delegate to the Federated Women's Clubs. Mrs. Broadbent also spent a few minutes in reviewing current events in an interesting manner. Mrs. Ernest Urien, parliamentarian, devoted a few minutes to "duties of a President."

OREGON

Morrow County Chapter

THE monthly luncheon of the Morrow County Wool Growers' Auxiliary was held at The Lucas Place after which the afternoon was spent discussing plans with Mrs. Philip W. Mahoney, president in charge.

It was decided to promote interest in lamb and mutton by having recipes of the different cuts and their preparation printed in the local paper twice a month. During March, Mesdames Harold A. Cohn and Mrs. J. Fred Lucas will have charge of this.

APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

It has been suggested to me that perhaps we might call attention to our need for new members to the Wool Growers' Auxiliary, through these pages.

No doubt there are many sheepmen in states in which there are no auxiliary chapters functioning who are unaware of the work we are doing. Whose job is it to see that these men are informed? It's got to be a job for each and every one of us, for our problems are their problems and it's a "sure thing," if enough get behind and "push."

The National needs you, and you need the National, for all the women interested in the sheep industry—allied industries should take a hand, too—could do much towards forwarding our interests. Let's have some active chapters in every state in which there is a men's association. More members mean more dollars, and more dollars mean more accomplishment.

Mrs. Emory C. Smith

Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, state president, suggested the use of sticker seals on letters and also that a letter be sent to the Governor of Oregon asking that he set aside one week to be known as State Lamb and Wool Week. This would stimulate interest in Oregon's lamb market.

Another suggestion of interest was the making of the history of the organization to be kept intact. Mesdames R. A. Thompson and William Bennett will gather and combine material of importance to the auxiliary.

Continued discussion was held in regard to the auxiliary book shelf to be maintained in the Heppner library and obtaining a suitable marker for it.

The auxiliary decided to give \$2 to Finnish relief funds, which will be sent from the various organizations in Oregon.

Of particular interest was the discussion of a food sale to be held March 23, the Saturday before Easter, in the Pacific Power and Light Company window. This will be an all-day affair, beginning at 10:30 o'clock. Besides foods there will be woollen animals as well as woollen pieces which may be used for afghans, quilt tops or bath robes. Useful door prizes will be given. The proceeds from the sale will be used for 4-H Club work. The committee working on the food sale is as follows: Mesdames J. Garnet Barratt, William Bennett, Ralph I. Thompson, B. C. Pinckney, W. O. Bayless, Harry Duval, and Philip Mahoney.

Malheur County

The regular monthly meeting of the Malheur County Auxiliary was held on February 13 at the home of Mrs. Roy Smith. President Mrs. Ralph Jones presided and gave an interesting report of her trip to the state convention at Burns, Oregon; she also told of the convention at Boise, Idaho.

Lamb Advertised

LAMB is featured in two striking advertisements in spring issues of publications of large circulation.

Particularly appealing is the advertisement by Safeway Markets in the February 23 issue of the Family Circle, which is distributed without charge to over 1,410,000 housewives each week. A boy, his freckled face radiant with anticipated joy, sits before a table, ready with knife and fork, to do his best by a thick lamb chop and its plate-mates, a baked potato and green peas. "Grand Lamb Chops Every Time—thanks to this new meat service," is the caption of the advertisement, the "new meat service" being Safeway's guarantee to consumers. "Safeway promises you," the copy recites, "tender, juicy meats—grand-tasting every time. If for any reason whatever you are dissatisfied with a purchase of Safeway meats—your money back!"

Guaranteed lamb is also the theme or motive of Swift and Company's attractive advertisement in the April issue of the Woman's Home Companion. (It may be in other women's magazines, too.) "Now it is easy to pick out Lamb that is tender, juicy, and delicate in flavor. Right on it, is the brand name Swift's Premium." A couple of illustrations show the brand on single lamb cuts (Identified Cuts) and a third one tempts with an "impressive" crown roast of lamb, suitably garnished. Consumers are asked to "look for the words Swift's Premium, brand name of the finest meats. If you order by phone, tell your dealer to leave the brand name on. It is your guarantee of lamb that was selected by experts, at America's Meat Headquarters."

CORRIEDALE INC.

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Markers
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LET the free wind make your electricity. This big, powerful, new streamlined Wincharger has been especially designed for ranch homes. Will generate electricity to fully light your ranch house, bunk houses, etc., and run water pump, refrigerator, washer, iron, radio, and other appliances. Capable of producing up to 200 kilowatt hours of electricity per month under average wind conditions. Sturdily built to give long uninterrupted service. Few moving parts. All exposed metal parts are stainless steel or galvanized. All important mechanical parts and electrical connections completely enclosed. Fully insulated and moisture proof construction insures long steady performance under every condition. Weight of generator and turntable assembly approximately 386 pounds.

AVAILABLE IN 32 VOLTS
This big streamlined unit also made in 32-volt capacity. Other size Winchargers available to meet every ranch requirement.

FOR LIGHTS AND RADIO ONLY
Many ranchers use Wincharger's 6 or 12-volt heavy duty plants for electrifying tenant houses where power for lights and radio only is wanted. Mail coupon below for complete information.

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WINCHARGER CORPORATION
World's Largest Makers of Wind-Electric Equipment
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Send your R & E booklet and full information on how I can light and power my ranch with Wincharger.

Name.....
P. O. Route.....
County..... State.....
I now get light from.....

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 12)

and sheep numbers are also about on a par with those of a year ago.

I imagine most of the wool growers will sell their wool at shearing time or shortly after; so far (February 24) there has been no contracting. Now that we have rain, and feed conditions are good, our big problem will be to know when we have had a fair offer for wool.

Fish and game trappers and some poisoning by ranchers are keeping coyote numbers down; they are less numerous than they were a year ago.

We favor the settling of all tariffs through bills passed by Congress.

J. M. Pura

OREGON

Moderate to mild temperatures prevailed, without any important inclemencies unfavorable for livestock. Light rains or snows occurred occasionally over the eastern portion, with heavier rains over the western valleys, furnishing ample moisture for all needs, though much bare ground appeared in eastern sections. Forage, while not at all times abundant, was generally ample and livestock are now in good shape.

Baker

(Baker County)

Rain and snowfall above normal since January 1 have made feed lots and lambing grounds very muddy in this locality (March 3). Winter lambing is in progress; will turn the lambs out the last of March. Hay is costing us \$4 to \$5.50 a ton in the stack.

The present sentiment among growers is to hold the 1940 wool clip for higher prices; no offers of any kind have been made yet.

How to get enough out of wool and lambs to justify staying in the sheep business, it seems to me, is the biggest problem before the wool growers today. We have plenty of cheap feed and our winter losses have not been above the average, but whether the lamb and wool crops will bring sufficiently high prices to make a profit no one knows.

A. S. Boyd

WASHINGTON

Mild to normal temperatures favored livestock practically all the month. There was an abundance of precipitation as a general rule, though at times more snow would have helped in the east largely owing to melting weather. Lambing is increasing and most livestock are in good or satisfactory condition. Rains were detrimental in places, but as a rule lambing progressed favorably.

Nespelem

(Okanogan County)

The weather has been very warm all through February; plenty of rain on the winter range and snow on the mountains. Practically all the sheep are being fed some hay, which can be purchased at \$10 a ton. Winter losses have been very small.

The general tendency here will be to hold the 1940 wool clip for higher prices. We don't get enough for our lamb and wool crops. In 1937 when we got 10 cents for our lambs and 30 cents for wool, we all made some money.

Not many trappers are working in this section although the bounty on coyote pelts is \$5.

Wm. Bell

Yakima

(Yakima County)

To date, February 24, we have had a large amount of moisture, in fact more rain than usual since the first of the year. However, the last summer and fall went on record as about the driest weather we have ever had. This made it necessary to keep sheep on the bottom pastures, where they utilized the third and fourth crops of alfalfa and beet tops until along about the middle of December, when they went on the range. I believe our sheep were the fattest at that time that I have ever seen them, owing to the fact that while the ranges were very dry, this dry weather made excellent bottom pasture conditions.

Owing to the mild weather, most of the sheep in this vicinity have run on

the range largely with a small grain ration and very little hay. Alfalfa hay in the stack was bought last fall at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per ton and is worth about the same price at this writing, with a very large carryover in the Kititas and Yakima valleys.

The winter loss in ewes has been about the same as formerly, although of late there has been some loss in ewes going from the range into the February lambing quarters, and there has been somewhat greater loss than usual from ewes slinking their lambs.

There have been no offers for contracting 1940 wool yet. We are hoping to get around 30 cents for wools this spring, but if the wool top futures market for the spring and summer months is any criterion, I am afraid the price may be less than we are expecting and hoping for.

Wool growers in this district prefer to sell their wool at the shearing plants, providing, of course, the price is in line with the existing market at that time. If not, they ship to the dock at Portland or to storage warehouses there and offer it for sale during the summer months, either by sealed bid or private sale.

Shearing will start in this district about the middle of March and continue through April. The price being mentioned now is 12½ cents and board to shearers. Most of the sheep are crutched before lambing and the crutchings sell at about half the price of wool. As our sheep are in high condition, and as the weather for the past two months has been very wet, we are expecting a very good clip of long staple, clean wool.

We winter a good many ewe lambs of our own raising, also purchasing from Oregon and Idaho, and have for sale to the sheepmen in this and other districts quite a large quantity of yearling ewes out of the shearing corral in the spring, and also out of pasture before the breeding season in the fall. As these ewe lambs are run on fall pastures and are of the half-blood Romney or Lincoln breeds, in other words of the Corriedale type, they are very large and command the top price in the West. Nine dollars per head has been mentioned as the probable price for the best of these yearling ewes out of the shear-

ing corral this spring. There are also several large purebred flocks in this valley and large numbers of rams are sold to the western breeders in the states of Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California.

Of course the sheepmen in this country are strong for a protective tariff and want to have the tariff on wool and other farm products continued. We are opposed to the Hull reciprocal trade agreement program and prefer having tariffs settled through bills passed by Congress.

I presume we are the same as any other wool-growing district in that we oppose the forming or setting aside of more national parks and are especially concerned in this state regarding the Cascade National Park. We think there are plenty of national parks now laid out in this state, somewhere around 30 in all, and we believe it would be very serious for the sheepmen should any more mountain ranges be set aside for parks.

H. Stanley Coffin

Lamont
(Whitman County)

Feed conditions on the ranges here have been ideal except that there has been a little too much rain, the rainfall exceeding all records. Due to the mild winter, I believe much less hay and grain have been fed than usual. No alfalfa is raised here and what is used must be hauled in. Our winter losses have been about the same as last year.

No contracting of 1940 wool has been done in this section (February 28). I believe most growers will hold for higher prices if those offered at shearing time are not substantially more than at the 1939 shearing date.

The Biological Survey has kept a good man in this locality who has consistently kept after the coyotes, with a noticeable reduction in their numbers as the result.

The most important problem confronting the wool grower, in my opinion, is the uncertainty that exists as a result of the government's policy in the making of trade treaties and the possibility of negotiation of new treaties with other countries that may have a far-reaching

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effect on the values of our domestic wools.

Another move that has been made by the government that may have a decided effect on the wool growers as well as other producers is the absorption of the Farm Credit Administration by the Department of Agriculture. How this will affect sound livestock credit remains to be seen. It all leaves you with the feeling that the pins may be knocked out from under you any time.

G. E. McDougall

IDAHO

Normal or unusually mild temperatures prevailed, with frequent moderate to rather heavy precipitation, some of it in the form of rain at the lower elevations. Range forage in the areas occupied by loose livestock has been plentiful, and feed has been abundant in feeding yards; consequently livestock have held up in good shape. Lambing has been active, with few losses.

Montevue

(Jefferson County)

The number of sheep on hay is smaller than in previous years (February 25). Hay can be purchased at \$5.50 a ton in the stack. We have had very little loss in ewes during the winter. There is no activity in wool yet.

Grazing problems are the most perplexing ones we have to face in this section. Coyotes are more numerous, too, and I believe they will continue to increase until we put on a bounty. Tariff making should be left entirely to Congress.

David Bethune

Hagerman

(Gooding County)

I believe most growers will be inclined to sell their wool at shearing time if a fair offer is made; up to the present (March 5) there has been no local activity at all so far as wool contracting is concerned.

No unusual losses in ewes have occurred during the winter and coyotes are less troublesome as a result of the good work being done by airplane hunters. Our chief difficulties, at present, arise from the operation of the Taylor Grazing Act. Uncertainty as to tariffs is also detrimental. The settling of all

tariffs should be through bills passed by Congress.

Alfalfa hay in the stack is selling at \$6 a ton.

T. A. Baptie

MONTANA

Seasonal to somewhat warmer than usual temperatures prevailed, with frequent light, moist snowfalls. Range forage and supplemental feeds have been plentiful, and livestock have wintered very well as a rule. Snow has been available on the remote areas, giving wide accessibility. Some shed lambing is reported, which is progressing nicely.

Absarokee

(Stillwater County)

Feed conditions are good (February 27), although the winter has been a little more severe than in the past two or three years. The number of sheep getting supplemental feed is a little larger than last year's. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$5 a ton in the stack. Winter losses have been about average.

Growers will hold for 30 cents or better for their wool, I think.

Due to lack of trappers, coyotes are more numerous than a year ago. Our chief problem in this section, though, is lack of summer range.

In my opinion, Congress should take care of the tariff making.

Robert Price

WYOMING

Normal temperatures prevailed, with no severely cold snaps; and snows were rather frequent, especially over the southern portion, though not deep or bothersome. Less snow fell farther north. Ranges were about one-half open, affording some forage, but supplemental feeding was rather heavy in many places. Shed lambing was reported progressing satisfactorily.

Casper

(Natrona County)

February has been unusually severe on sheep; not so cold but heavily crust-ed snow is making hay and grain a necessity greater than for several winters. Our losses haven't been any larger than last year, because the fore part of the winter was favorable.

While nothing has been done yet in regard to sale of the 1940 wool clip, I think most growers will sell at shearing and thereby reduce their storage and insurance costs.

Less trapping by hunters on account of low hide values has resulted in an increase in coyote numbers during the past year.

The lack of any policy on the part of the present administration and too much governmental interference with business have created the most disturbing problems for the wool growers, in my opinion. The tariff should be handled by Congress, most emphatically.

Fred W. Cottman

Cokeville
(Lincoln County)

February has been a warm month, as a result we have more snow than usual and more sheep are getting hay and grain, particularly on west end of winter range. No hay is for sale here. Winter losses are normal and none of them have been the result of poverty.

I think most men of this section will hold their wool until prices are more favorable.

The chief difficulty of the sheepmen, as I see it, lies in the uncertainty of their markets. The price of everything we buy is pretty well fixed. We know what our taxes will be, freight rates, interest, labor, merchandise, leased land, Taylor rights and forest permits—they mount up into too great overhead expense—but we never know what price wool and lambs will bring.

Vincent Bennion

Thermopolis
(Hot Springs County)

Range conditions reflect the 1939 drought, which indicates a shortage of forage, say, 60 per cent of a normal over three years. More grain is being fed (February 23), but not so much hay as yet; the future depends on the weather. Hay is now priced at \$6.50 a ton in the stack. Losses have not been severe during the winter, just about a normal average.

When hunters are paid a normal wage and permitted to sell pelts in addition to the wage, coyotes will be cleaned out; under the old way, never.

I would not hurry to sell my wool if I were wise. The present world up-set is the answer, from a demand as well as a quantity standpoint.

The "lousy" trade agreement menace, handled over the heads and out of the hearing of our senators, is of great concern to wool growers. Congress should handle all tariff matters; otherwise, why do we continue a Congress? We need plenty of representation by our people. The elimination of a lot of the present crack-pot ideas would be helpful, too, all the way round.

H. D. Curtis

SOUTH DAKOTA
South Shore
(Codington County)

Due to the poor quality of cured grass in northeastern South Dakota, sheep require hay regardless of winter conditions. Upland hay sells at \$3; alfalfa up to \$6. We have had a higher death loss in ewes this winter, due to the shipping in of old Montana ewes last fall.

Growers here generally sell their wool at shearing time. Unpleasant memories of past experiences always arise at the thought of consigning.

The big fight of the sheepmen in this district is against wormy lambs. Many growers treated their lambs four and five times in the past season.

Maurice Nelson

Against Range Conservation Payments

In line with the Wool Grower's policy of presenting views on both sides of important questions, there is printed below an article submitted by Fred W. Falconer, Walla Walla, Washington.

To the Editor:

I was much interested in the Associated Press dispatches concerning the debate at the recent National Wool Growers' Convention at Casper, Wyoming, over the resolution endorsing the agricultural range conservation program. I agree with Tom Cooper and James Laidlaw that it is ridiculous to seek benefit payments for range conservation, and at the same time resolute against increasing taxes and the na-

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For booklet, address the secretary.

tional debt, and that we surrender our independence when we do so.

I note that the Texas, Montana, Oregon and Washington delegations favored these resolutions. I don't know anything about Texas and Montana sentiment, but I do know that the sentiment in Washington and Oregon among the stockmen is far from being unanimous in favoring the Agricultural Department's range conservation program.

I personally know that many in these two states have in recent years, since the government has embarked on an agricultural subsidy, made large investments in marginal farm and range lands with the hope of receiving direct government aid which will enable them to pay for these lands and at the same time, place them in a position to build up a fortune. It is, in my opinion, becoming an organized racket and many have assumed the attitude of getting all out of the government that they possibly can while the getting is good.

The W.P.A. worker who leans on his shovel and does as little work as possible for the money he receives is just as honorable as the men I have mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and he is a great deal more justified in taking a government dole, because it is for the necessities of life. All of these people are, by their attitude and acts and requests for something for nothing, endangering our American institutions. Thomas E. Dewey has, in a recent speech described what has already happened and what will happen if we do not stop this kind of thing, much better than I can.

Mr. Roosevelt's assertion that our national indebtedness is not dangerous because this indebtedness is owed to ourselves is too absurd to receive a dignified answer, and the arguments of the agriculturists that they should be subsidized by the government so that they may purchase and pay for and develop marginal farm and range lands, is also an unsound, unreasonable and absurd request. I know the Agricultural Department will deny that it is the intent of the law, but if they will proceed with a diligent investigation, they can easily find out for themselves

that this is being done on a large scale in both Oregon and Washington.

Henry Wallace's whole program of agricultural aid and soil conservation is, in my opinion, unsound, with the possible exception of erosion control, and will finally fall of its own weight, and will have accomplished little that is worth while, but will have materially aided in increasing our already top-heavy national debt. Many of those receiving agricultural benefit payments do not believe in it, but feel that inasmuch as they will be taxed to help pay for it, they are justified in taking the money.

I was born on a farm in Iowa and have followed agricultural pursuits all of my life. At the present time, I am the owner of wheat and range lands and am eligible to receive benefit payments on both. I am, however, unalterably and unqualifiedly opposed to the present policy of the Agricultural Department as regarding agricultural benefit

payments, and hope to see Congress abandon this method of agricultural aid altogether at an early date. Agriculture has its problems of course, and some recognition should be given by Congress to help solve these problems, but the present law is not the proper one and the quicker it is abandoned, the better off the nation will be. Of course, the proponents of this law will hold up their hands in horror and inquire, "What else do you propose?" Well, I admit that it is a difficult question, but certainly some law can be made that will give agriculture an equal opportunity with industry, without the putting of the recipients of farm aid in the same class of those receiving a dole.

There is a necessity to feed and clothe those of this nation who cannot accomplish it themselves. But there is no necessity nor excuse for subsidizing agriculture to the extent that many of the recipients may be enabled to acquire and pay for large tracts of marginal farm and range lands and finally, by doing so, to acquire fortunes. I believe that when the American taxpayer finally finds out that he is being heavily taxed for this purpose, he will rebel.

If the taxpayers of this country could see some of the well-clothed, well-fed, well-equipped recipients of large farm and range conservation payments, and if they could see the manner in which some of them live with all the modern conveniences, including new automobiles, fine modern homes, and the ability to give their children college educations, etc., they certainly would begin to wonder why they were being taxed to aid people who live under such favorable circumstances.

I can, in my opinion, offer a just and much saner, and sounder policy of so-called farm aid, than the present one. But that is another story, and I am sure that it would fall on deaf ears during this administration. But 1940 is here, and there is good reason to hope that a new administration will be inaugurated in 1941 which will adopt saner and sounder policies for not only agriculture, but also industry and all the other great interests of these United States.

Very truly yours,
Fred W. Falconer

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